

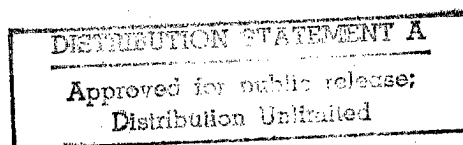
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Near East/South Asia Report

No. 2795



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4 August 1983

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

No. 2795

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OBJECTIVES OF NEW JURISPRUDENCE ACADEMY DISCUSSED

Riyadh AL-DA'WAH in Arabic No 897, 6 Jun 83 pp 14-17

[Article: "Constituent Congress of Academy of Islamic Jurisprudence in Mecca Considers Papers"]

[Text] It is hoped that this new academy will anticipate the importance of presenting the contemporary questions of Muslims. Coordination and non-duplication of efforts are required.

[Wanted]: a journal of jurisprudence, an observatory and a computer for scientific research.

Today, Monday, 25 Sha'ban 1403 A.H. in the holy city of Mecca, where the Holy Koran was first revealed, the Constituent Congress of the Academy of Islamic Jurisprudence is being convened. It is being sponsored by His Royal Highness King Fahd ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz Aal Sa'ud, the keeper of the holy cities of Mecca and Medina. The first sessions of this academy, which is a body that grew out of the Islamic Conference Organization, are being held for an earnest and purposeful action, God willing, in the interests of Islam and Muslims.

The First Paper: a Solid Brick in the Structure of Solidarity

We may not be stretching the truth when we affirm that with this useful action the Islamic Conference Organization is buttressing the structure of true solidarity in a practical sense. This action stems from the principle of unifying and organizing Islamic thought and accordingly unifying and organizing the ranks of Muslims who are being torn apart by their differences.

In view of that fact it was imperative that the elite among Muslim scholars speak one language. Attempts [to unify Muslims] actually began a long time ago in the Constituent Congress of the Islamic World League and at the Academy for Islamic Research in al-Azhar, Egypt. This action then took its place in numerous agencies such as the Academy of Jurisprudence, which is affiliated with the Islamic World League, and other agencies of jurisprudence that are founded on the common efforts of Muslim scholars from all over the Islamic world. This does not include other older agencies, such as the Board of Senior Scholars in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Board of Senior Scholars in Egypt. The Academy of Islamic Studies was founded over the ruins of [the latter board]. [Other older agencies not included in this action] are local agencies in Lebanon, Syria, the Arab Maghreb, India and Pakistan.

Despite all these commendable efforts the need to establish a central, more comprehensive and more far-reaching body to organize and coordinate the efforts that are being made remains pressing. This may have been the motive behind the resolution issued by the Third Islamic Summit (al-Ta'if Summit) in 1401 A.H. to establish an academy of Islamic jurisprudence whose purpose would be to realize the theoretical and practical unity of Islam by attempting to make personal and social human conduct consistent with the rules of Islamic law. We hope this new academy will stay away from duplication and conformity; we hope it will have its own unique plans, organization and follow-up procedures; and we hope its efforts will not be repetitive or disparate.

AL-DA'WAH is presenting these few papers to the first Constituent Congress. The ideas contained therein constitute a modest contribution to the creation of a general view of the services such a congress may lead to. It can rejuvenate Islamic jurisprudence as a cultural teacher for the future course of Islamic action which needs intense work, continuous effort and armies of specialized scholars and experts or specialists in all branches of knowledge and culture. All this is needed to escape the inertia that has been imposed on Islamic jurisprudence. It is sad that we Muslims are well aware of the loss we suffer as a result of the fact that independent opinions in the area of jurisprudence are being stifled. Nonetheless, we hesitate to recover from our failure, and we hesitate to wake up to our indifference. What is even worse is that some people sometimes blame Islam for the concerns of their society. Following the lead of resentful orientalist and colonialist views, they accuse Islam of being reactionary and backward and unable to stay in step with life. There is no doubt that this is one of the premises behind the intellectual invasion which is being carried out through numerous channels. This premise is conveyed to the minds of the nation's young people, leading them to believe falsely that the door to independent opinions in Islamic jurisprudence and law has been closed forever. This is an obvious mistake that all those who are able to discern must point out to people. They must expose the obfuscation that surrounds and lends itself to the formulation of independent opinions. Sometimes, some people find a way out for themselves: they absolve themselves of their shameful shortcomings and blame these shortcomings on colonialism and on the intellectual, social and other effects it left behind. This is true to a certain extent, but it is not the whole truth about the problem. Actually, Muslims no longer get their information from the principal sources: the Koran and the Prophetic Tradition. Muslims have contented themselves with second-hand information they receive from imported sources in the absence of true Islamic thought and Islamic law that regulates the life of a Muslim nation, shedding light all around this nation and in front of it and infusing it with a spirit of optimism in life and self-reliance, after reliance on God.

It is being hoped that this first constituent congress will come into the world full of vitality and vigor, free from the falsehood of mindless imitation and media routine.

A Second Paper: Jurisprudence and Civilization

It is indisputable that the course of Islam is comprehensive and far-reaching in its treatment of various minor and major aspects of life; Islam is [like] a beautifully formed, multi-faceted huge encyclopaedia of thought. The integrated

course of Islam is based on faith as the main premise for all the affairs of Muslims. Islam is based on jurisprudence as the proper course for regulating this premise and formulating these problems that pertain to the lives of individual Muslims or the affairs of the Muslim nation. It is also indisputable that the course of Islam is harmonious and coordinated in the sense that there are no incongruities between faith, as the stem and root of Islam, and jurisprudence, as a course for life and action. If theology and theological knowledge regulate the faith aspect of religion, it is jurisprudence, the [four] foundations of Islamic jurisprudence and legal policy that regulate the legislative aspects of people's lives as individuals and of society's affairs as a nation.

And here we must set up an organic connection between jurisprudence and civilization, instead of the unfair view that associates jurisprudence and experts on the subject with impediments to the free flow of intellectual energy and knowledge. This unfair view is based on the previously mentioned ascription to Islam of backwardness, ultra-conservatism and closed-mindedness. Let us reaffirm [here] the organic connection between jurisprudence as a course that regulates the lives of individuals and the affairs of nations and [Islamic] civilization which the whole world experienced over many centuries during the heydays of Islam. Islam prospered for many centuries until the wheels of its civilization stopped turning when the proper course of jurisprudence stopped functioning and growing and when insurmountable barriers were placed in front of people [to keep them from] exercising their own independent judgments. [At that time] the nation stopped making progress, becoming preoccupied with non-cultural questions and problems. That was when numerous minor and marginal matters became intertwined, interacting together to draw people's attention to marginal problems and issues that Islamic jurisprudence could have set aside for a while so as to continue moving ahead. (We will give examples of this in a subsequent paper). What may have worn out the course of jurisprudence and civilization is the confusion and distortion that occurred between the call to stop independent opinions and draw the line on the nation's aspirations for life's innovations, and the chaos that became widespread throughout formal legal opinions and individual independent judgments. Thus, every theologian or quasi-theologian would ponder a question and issue definitive, formal opinions, leading himself to believe and leading all Muslims to believe that his opinion was the proper opinion based on the Holy Koran and the tradition of God's prophet.

Hence, Islamic civilization faded for a while, disappearing behind many clouds, the most salient of which was that which made reliable collective views in Islamic jurisprudence ineffective for the purpose of enacting proper legislation [affecting all] the variables that occurred in people's lives, in accordance with the changes occurring in life and the evolution of experimental science, etc. For the third time [let us repeat], it is indisputable that Muslims today are living in a backward cultural stage compared with the West. As Islamic advocate al-Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali indicates, when Europe was living in the Dark Ages, Arabs travelled with the sun in the countries of the world, bringing about a surge of ideas, touching people's hearts and carrying wherever they went the honor of their demeanor and conduct.

Muslims served the world for almost 1,000 years. But after they took off the wings that had helped them soar, they became too weak to carry the flame of knowledge and there was nothing left for them to do but lie idle.

The question that is being posed now to the Congress on Islamic Jurisprudence which is now in session is this: how do we restore those wings that would help Muslims soar and continue the progress of our civilization in this random material world and the poor material reality of Islam? This is truly a difficult proposition, but early steps for solutions [to these problems] may stem from these difficulties. It is our opinion that first and foremost, the question of individual and collective independent judgments and formal opinions be reorganized and the required coordination carried out so that opinions would be standardized and ranks and objectives united.

A Third Paper: Subordinate Issues Ruled Out Consideration of Basic Issues

It seems to us that the international Islamic Conference Organization felt there were considerable discrepancies in formal opinions about basic issues in Islamic jurisprudence. The discrepancies in these issues broke the unity of Islamic thought which, it is assumed, the Islamic Conference Organization was founded to safeguard, nurture and remove obstacles thereto.

Besides these issues, it also seems to us that the Islamic Conference Organization felt there were secondary, divergent issues, some of which were not even supererogatory; they were rather called "prefatory" by some theological disciplines. Nonetheless, these "prefatory" or supererogatory actions were at best blown out of proportion and became insurmountable obstacles to the unification of Islamic feelings, Islamic thought and Islamic conduct. There were numerous and various Islamic ideas about uttering or not uttering the word, "Amen;" about putting one hand on top of the other or not while reciting the Exordium to the Koran; about differences regarding the legally intended form of women's veils and even about men's clothing; and about whether or not one's hands are to be raised during prayer or devotional exercises performed in the morning, in voluntary prayers and so on.

Major differences about major issues which are breaking up the unity of Islamic thought and fragmenting Islamic unity are too numerous to mention. We will refer [here] only to the most important of these issues, among which are [the following]:

--The problem of standardizing the sighting of the new crescent at the beginning of the month of Ramadan so that the entire Islamic world would be permitted to commence the fast when the crescent is sighted in the Arabian Peninsula or in any Islamic country. This confusion about the Ramadan fast threatens the unity of Muslims.

--The problem of life insurance or insurance on material objects. There is a detrimental difference of opinion between a school that allows all kinds of modern insurance and other schools of jurisprudence that accept only cooperative insurance.

--There is a problem between those who support the payment of an alms tax on women's jewelry and those who oppose payment of such a tax.

--There is a problem with modern Islamic banks, particularly regarding what is being rumored by some people about attempts to cast doubts about the business practices of these banks.

--There is the problem of a ruler's intervention in some private capital; there is the problem of a ruler's right to fix prices or to confiscate [property]; there is the problem of a ruler's right to impose rights [sic] other than those of an alms tax. [There are differences of opinion] about how far a ruler can go in doing that.

--There is a problem about updating the principles of jurisprudence: there are those who are rejecting that outright; there are those who support such a move with limitations; and there are those who support it without limitations.

--There is a problem about the theater arts and what constitutes permissible and impermissible amusement; there is a problem about what may be and may not be photographed; and there is a problem about how permissible alternatives to the arts can be introduced to rule out sinful activities.

We also think that when the Islamic Conference Organization decided to take on the establishment of the Academy of Jurisprudence and to set it up within its sphere from where it looks upon and deals with the entire Islamic world, it became aware--or it should have become aware--of the fact that it had undertaken a great and serious task. This is because Muslims suffer from a kind of theological schizophrenia which led to theological intolerance, making every faction cheer for its own theology.

As a result of this fragmentation some theologians in the Islamic world were using the harshest means to defend their points of view, denying other theologians the right to have an opinion, a right they had given themselves. To them the only theology was theirs; the only reason was theirs; and the only Prophetic Tradition was that which others had to accept as authentic, with the same interpretation they provided, regardless of the association a tradition may have with other traditions that are considered authentic by others.

It is this course that has caused Islamic jurisprudence to become sterile. Independent judgments were no longer being made, and some sincere people were afraid to set forth their opinions lest their faith in religion be impugned. The notion of shutting the door that blows an ill wind prevailed, and it almost closed all the avenues that would make matters easy in Islamic law.

By comparison life slipped out of control, and the countries that had succumbed to an intellectual invasion resorted to positive laws in deference to what they thought were three considerations.

First, theologians were not in agreement, and each one of them was fanatically partial to his own opinions. Many theologians relied on the fact that [the public] wanted distinguishing generalities and that one need not exert oneself in researching and deriving rules of jurisprudence to regulate people's lives and ensure for them peace and stability. This is what happened during the days of the well-known ruler of India, Emperor Akbar who refrained from the application of Islamic principles in the law because theologians fought each other in front of him instead of being affectionate with each other and agreeing on the same course.

Second, some theologians are inclined to reject everything even though there are conditions that cannot be ignored such as the means of the media and artistic devices. Instead of rejecting these conditions, allowable alternatives to them must be introduced.

Third, jurisprudence went through a period of fragmentation and was not presented to people satisfactorily in an integrated manner that can be referred to. In fact, some people fought the placement of restraints on jurisprudence and they compiled its problems. Only a few attempts have so far emerged after the Ottoman attempts that adhered to the Hanafi school.

To anyone who recognizes its profound meaning, the meeting of theologians under the auspices of the Islamic Conference Organization, which represents all Muslims, to streamline various theological movements is a significant opportunity. It is expected that this meeting will come out with opinions that Muslims will find comforting. These opportunities will set controls on what is obviously forbidden and what is obviously permitted, and they will indicate what may be made easy and where disagreements may occur where God wished that there be a respite to prove the suitability of Islam for all times and for all places and to realize the flexibility of rules in the disciplines that do not infringe upon what was mentioned in the Holy Koran or in the authentic Prophetic Tradition. These are the broad hopes that Muslims expect the Academy of Jurisprudence will realize in an age of collective independent judgments, an age which is based on specialized scientific institutions and councils.

A Fourth Paper: a Basic Task That Must Be Confronted

The academy is faced with a basic task which is almost the object of the entire matter because it is the major issue or the greatest challenge that Muslims are facing in their contemporary world. This challenge emerged when many attempts failed to put Islamic law into practice, adopt the Holy Koran as a universal law for the system of government and adopt the Prophetic Tradition to elucidate, explain and complement the Holy Koran. God Almighty said, "He that holds fast to Allah shall be guided to the right path" [Aal 'Imran: 101]. God Almighty also said, "To you we have revealed the Koran, so that you may proclaim to men what has been revealed for them, and that they may give thought" [al-Nahl: 44]. According to what was set forth by Malik, the Prophet, may God bless him and grant him salvation, said, "Two matters I bequeath to you: the Book of God and the tradition of His prophet. You shall not stray if you adhere to them."

If we overlook slightly those bodies that are concerned with implementation and practical application, we will not be able to overlook, according to our responsibility as advocates, the task of evaluating the efforts of those who codify Islamic law and those who develop theories about laws which can be tantamount to a course defining landmarks on the road ahead. Scholars, experts and theologians have no excuse for not going into this field and disengaging those who rely on positive laws imported from non-Muslim nations, which are the product of idolatrous thought that is ages apart from Islam, from those who sometimes sincerely and many other times insincerely try to inject positive laws in some Muslim countries, thereby creating confusion and distortion in the [overall] picture.

The academy must cooperate with other authorities, organizations and institutions concerned with [our] cultural heritage and its progress; it must play its part in the full codification of Islamic law, documenting all its origins, its branches, its issues and all pertinent matters so that an Islamic code of law can be ready for application and implementation whenever that becomes possible. The

application of Islamic law in Saudi Arabia for over 50 years may be an example to be used for study and discussion for the purpose of using that experience in the area of legislating, theorizing and codifying laws.

This means that one of the most important accomplishments that the academy can consider--and this is a matter that most definitely has to be on its agenda--is the matter of completing the full codification of Islamic law and making use of the efforts of [previous and other] academies of jurisprudence that made good progress in that direction as well. One of the most important duties of the academy in its present form is to utilize the agencies of the Islamic Conference Organization, from which the academy sprang, and follow up on the implementation operations of committees, each committee in its area of expertise and field. The academy is to effect the full coordination of these efforts which may be repeated in more than one place and in more than one country.

A Fifth Paper: Screening and Revitalizing

We do not think that any of the scholars will disagree with us about the fact that Islamic jurisprudence needs to undergo a careful screening process to cast away many of the unproductive opinions that found their way into the body of Islamic theology during the days of intellectual backwardness when the theological mentality was closed. This caused many books of jurisprudence, which are considered most important references, to become full of numerous, long-winded and futile dialectics about secondary matters derived by sound theologians, indicating the correct opinions of these theologians on matters that needed no controversy and no dispute. This fact was reflected on the legislators of personal status laws in a Muslim country; those legislators adopted some marginal matters and overlooked more acceptable opinions.

The opposite of that is also true regarding the need to attend to the revival of the cultural heritage and the effort to examine it, publish it, study it, set up a methodology for it and annotate it systematically in a manner that is consistent with the spirit of the age. This would make it easy for students, researchers and ordinary Muslims to benefit from this heritage in the least roundabout way. All this would be easy if existing academies of jurisprudence were to give our heritage some attention. A nation's heritage, as is well-known, is its soul; and a nation without heritage is a nation without a soul and without history.

A Sixth Paper: Islamic Jurisprudence Superior to Positive Laws

It follows from [the argument of] the previous paper that after weak and intrusive opinions are eliminated from Islamic jurisprudence, after its references are verified and after a methodology for it is established, revived and presented in an appropriately modern manner, the extent to which Islamic jurisprudence is superior to all the positive laws that are widespread in the Islamic world even though they hardly conform to the reality of the Islamic world may become evident to both fair and unfair orientologists. There is no doubt that all our institutions and our academies of jurisprudence have been quite remiss in presenting this splendid heritage of jurisprudence in all the cultural forums of the world. It is as though we thought, out of a naivete that is characteristic of us, that the authenticity of Islamic jurisprudence itself will command attention

or will present itself [spontaneously]. But this is absolutely false. Someone has to do this, and we do not deny the fact that some of this was done at numerous international meetings. Nonetheless, there are still bright and shining aspects of our theological heritage that have not been properly presented.

A Seventh Paper: a Computer and Observatories

In its construction or developmental plan the academy must rely on the most up-to-date modern technology in the area of scientific research. Theory alone can no longer express the needs of the age. It is also necessary to use computers with all their capabilities for classifying the subjects of our heritage, indexing their contents and processing and storing information.

Besides, it is necessary to establish an observatory that would be subordinate to the academy. It would be better if there were as many observatories as there are Muslim countries, provided that these observatories are subject to a central system. This means that information would come into the observatory in Mecca, since it is at the heart of the Islamic world--it is even the geographical center of this world. Accordingly, decisions would be standardized, and disagreements over the determination of lunar months, the beginning of Ramadan, the determination of the two Bairams and other matters that have become the subject of controversy between numerous parties in the Islamic world would be eliminated. This is only an example [of what is happening now].

An Eighth Paper: a Theological Expert Alone Is not Enough

We think the academy will solicit the assistance of the best experts in the various areas of knowledge. The academy will do this on the basis of the fact that the interests of Muslims are numerous and varied, and an expert theologian alone cannot be informed about everything that is happening around him. Instead of relying on one theologian, one must refer to economists on matters of the economy; in medical matters one must refer to medical scientists; and in questions about nutrition one must refer to nutrition experts and so on. When the academy consists of prominent scientists in the various branches of knowledge, it can in light of that fact provide sound opinions or opinions that are close to being sound. "Ask the people of the Book, if you doubt this" [al-Nahl: 43].

A Ninth Paper: a Journal of Jurisprudence and a Dictionary of Theology

We also believe that the importance of founding a journal of jurisprudence, comparable to the specialized scientific journals in all the branches of knowledge is no longer in dispute. If we are able to come up with a good journal, we will simultaneously be able to drive out of the scene those alternatives that are not so good. According to the well-known economic principle, good currency will drive forged currency out of the market. There is also a pressing need for compiling a dictionary of theological words and terms to explain the definitions and the usage of those words and terms. This is also one of the objectives of the existing academy of jurisprudence in Mecca. This academy is affiliated with the Islamic World League. It is truly astonishing, for example, to see a teacher who has been charged with the task of teaching Islamic education in Islamic elementary and intermediate schools say that he does not know the meaning of the word "al-takhris" [conjecture], or the meaning of the term, "bay' al-najash" [overpricing goods for sale]. This means that the need is pressing indeed for

scientific, applied and purposeful action. The need for that is greater than the need for suggestions, recommendations and resolutions that are not implemented and are not afforded careful follow-up.

A Final Paper: Now Then

We do not dispute the fact that there are many papers and numerous opinions, nor do we deny the fact that the ideas that are being pondered by those who are assembled now in the congress are more numerous, more profound and more comprehensive than what we proposed. This is doubtless and indisputable. What we proposed, as we mentioned at the outset, is a modest contribution. It is also tantamount to a reminder, giving us a signal and alerting us to a serious matter that we are all guilty of: on the one hand we become very enthusiastic, very sincere and very honest about all [these ideas] and then we fail to apply, implement and follow through [on any of them]. This final paper is merely a quiet and an impassioned plea that this great academy follow through on its efforts and continue its activities regardless of circumstances and considerations.

Let us spurn all political disputes that do not benefit but rather delay and sometimes stifle the progress of knowledge. Let Muslim scholars go forth spurred by hope in God and confidence in the past and future of this nation which God has prepared to become a "charitable" nation, a nation that will testify against people, "You are the noblest nation that has ever been raised up for mankind" and so forth to the end of the verse [Aal Imran: 101]. "We have made you a just nation, so that you may testify against mankind and that your own apostle may testify against you" [The Cow: 143].

We are still placing [much] hope on this momentous congress whose import and magnitude is equal to what this new academy can yield in cooperation with other fraternal academies, missionary agencies and institutions of theology and cultural heritage that are scattered throughout the vast Islamic world. Along with a billion Muslims we will be waiting.

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CSO: 4404/482

ISLAMIC AFFAIRS

DECLINE OF ISLAMIC PUBLICATIONS DEPLORED

Riyadh AL-DA'WAH in Arabic No 896, 30 May 83 pp 14-16

[Article: "The Islamic Press and the Missing Dimension"]

[Text] No one can deny that some progress has been made in one aspect of the Islamic media: the press.

Nevertheless, we will overlook in this discussion other areas of the media--the gaps in those areas have not been closed yet--and we will concentrate in our discussion on the press, this part of the media where some progress has been achieved as we mentioned previously.

In observing any Islamic and Arab country where religion is not subjected to direct terrorism, we find that numerous Islamic newspapers are being published.

The fact that these newspapers are significantly fewer than those which advocate corruption is characteristic of [such] constructive appeals. "If you obeyed the greater part of mankind, they would lead you away from Allah's path" [al-An'am: 116].

But the problem with these newspapers is that their resources are spent uselessly, and that weakens their activities.

For example, to make up for the shutdown of two magazines in Egypt, AL-DA'WAH and AL-I'TISAM, four newspapers were published. One of them is an official newspaper; it is the weekly AL-LIWA' AL-ISLAMI which is published by the National Party. The second newspaper is AL-NUR, which is published by the Liberal Party, the tame opposition party, as it is called in Egypt. The third newspaper is AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM, which is an independent newspaper. And the fourth newspaper is AL-UMMAH AL-ISLAMIYAH, which is also an independent newspaper. Although we appreciate the role that is being played by these newspapers, they were not able to stand up to the storms as they ought to have done--even though they are newspapers. It is these storms that prevent the application of Islamic law, the prohibition of alcoholic beverages and other such matters.

This shortcoming [in the Islamic press] may not be due to the fact that these newspapers are semi-partisan or that they are weekly publications. It is rather due to the fact that many of their resources are squandered in individual actions

or in petty battles that deplete their energies. This shortcoming [in the Islamic press] may also be due to a lack of coordination between those newspapers or to their meager resources.

In order to play the part they wanted to play, these newspapers had to be produced in a modern fashion and in a style that Muslims had hoped for many times.

If we were to leave this scene and look at another on the Indian subcontinent, we would find something curious.

On the Indian sub-continent every community functions as though it were the only one in India. These communities publish newspapers in Urdu, Arabic, English, Indian and other languages. Not even the minimum amount of coordination is conducted with other communities. These communities do not publish magazines that are commensurate with their resources so they can offer the best information services.

Consequently, many magazines have no more than minimal circulation, nor do they go beyond traditional standards of production.

Only a few magazines were able to break through this barrier. Among them was the magazine, AL-BA'TH AL-ISLAMI, which is published in Arabic by a panel of scholars, and the magazine AL-RISALAH, which is published in Urdu by Wahid al-Din Khan.

We appreciate the role that is being played by the Islamic community in India. It is enough that they translated the meaning of the Koran into almost all the major languages that are spoken in India. That is more than 10 languages. We also appreciate their magazine, AL-DA'WAH, and many of the other magazines and newspapers-- [a total of] 15--which they publish. The Islamic community publishes a monthly periodical in Urdu called ZINDAQI that was widely embraced by scholars. There is a weekly newspaper in Indian called KANTI (Rays of Light); and there is a daily newspaper in Urdu called DA'AWAT (The Call). The community also publishes a weekly newspaper called (BARBUR HANAM) in Malayalam, a language that is widely spoken in the state of Kerala, and a monthly magazine called SHANTI MARQ in Marathi.

Other magazines are published under the supervision of community members. These are AL-HASANAT, HIJAB, DHIKRA, DAWAM and 'ASA' KALIM in Urdu; and HADI in Indian. AL-HIJAB is a women's magazine; NUR and HADI are children's magazines; DAWAM is a literary magazine; the rest of the magazines are for both men and women.

There is a weekly newspaper that comes out in English called RADIANCE; it is published by the Organization for Islamic Publications which is managed by some members of the community. This newspaper deals with the affairs of Muslims and with solutions to India's problems from an Islamic perspective. The newspaper features articles against the enemies of Islam and of Muslims, and it has an excellent standing among Muslims who speak English in India and outside India. It is the means by which non-Muslims who speak English can be informed about Islam.

We appreciate the determination the Muslim community is demonstrating by publishing 15 magazines in the major languages that are spoken in Greater India. We believe that this does get the message across. However, we had hoped for

coordination and a proper allocation of resources so that perhaps fewer magazines would be published, but the few that would be published would have wider circulation, more resources and more influence.

There are magazines in India that are published by some Islamic societies and organizations. No more than 2,000 copies of these magazines--perhaps even less--are printed. This is in a continent where Muslims outnumber the population of the Arab world!

Is the mere publication of magazines all that is intended here?

Are these magazines supposed to represent institutions or are they supposed to serve Muslims?

While [Islamic] publications in countries where the population is half the Muslim population of India reach half a million, how is it that the framework for our Islamic publications remains so narrow? Even when we compare these publications with Arabic newspapers--and there are Arabic magazines that are not committed to Islam--[we find that] these Arabic magazines now have a circulation of over or slightly less than 100,000 copies. Why don't Muslim media officials make plans to achieve this objective?

The fact of the matter is that there is an essential reason for this disunity in the media: it is the intellectual disunity that Muslims are experiencing. The disunity of the media is a result of this intellectual disunity or a reflection of it.

But I would like to turn the tables and make the coordination of information reflect an image of the nation by which it can be guided to unity in other areas. Isn't the press the guide for society? Aren't media people for the most part leaders of thought? Why don't people in the media coordinate their activities?

We appreciate the noble motives behind the publication of any Islamic newspaper. There are newspapers that have actually proven their place, but there are many newspapers that need support, planning and coordination.

We naturally appreciate everything that some societies have been doing: they published newspapers in numerous languages so that those who speak only those languages can hear about Islam.

This is a fitting duty for these societies--what the Islamic community is doing in India. With that exception we must at least have a number of national, Islamic newspapers that are widely circulated and are written in major languages such as Arabic, Urdu, English, French and Swahili.

This is a demand that must be adopted by the Islamic Conference Organization or the Islamic World League. They are to cooperate with speakers of these languages and those who can fill that gap intellectually, linguistically and culturally. The only thing they lack is material and moral support.

It is worth noting that there are numerous newspapers and magazines, but it is rare that there be any agreement or cooperation between them. Instead, there is

competition and insistence on a single course, and this is the foundation of the conduct Muslims pursue with each other. When any multiplicity in modes of operation or in methods of treatment emerges, disputes arise and rebuttals and responses follow. One responds to a response, refutes a response, reveals facts and removes ambiguities: and this goes on in an atmosphere that reflects war not affection.

Muslims have often dreamed about an association for the Islamic press. Only one step was taken to achieve that dream. It was taken at the Jakarta conference that was convened almost 2 years ago. Then the idea died almost as soon as it was born. It is curious that there are associations for many groups: poets, journalists or artists (!). However, Muslim journalists who defend the most honorable and the holiest of messages have not yet had a chance to get together in something like an association.

When Muslim journalists do sit down [together], they will be able to coordinate their artistic and media efforts.

--They will coordinate priorities.

--There will be an intellectual rapprochement in their midst.

--They will deal with the problem of quantity which is based on figuring out the method.

--They will deal with the question of meager resources.

--They will deal with the question of poor production.

--They will deal with the question of weak political analyses.

--They will deal with the question of fragmentation at the expense of basic Islamic questions.

--They will have an honor list so they would not destroy each other.

--They will make basic objectives common objectives.

--They will prevent duplication in the same place.

--They will try to overcome the traditional methods of the press: the direct and the rhetorical.

--They will try to support each other against intellectual and non-intellectual threats that surround them, such as the forceful imposition of Christianity in some countries, pressure from socialism in other countries and other kinds of pressure that tie the hands of Muslim journalists.

These are only a few of the questions that Muslim journalists will deal with if one day they come to an agreement on one thing.

If one were to look objectively at the Islamic scene, particularly the Arab one,

one would find there are scores of newspapers there. One may find in each country a considerable number of newspapers. There are AL-MUJTAMA', AL-BALAGH, AL-WA'Y AL-ISLAMI, MANAR AL-ISLAM, DIYA' AL-ISLAM, AL-ISRA', AL-UMMAH, AL-ISLAH, AL-TADAMUN AL-ISLAMI, HADARAH AL-ISLAM and AL-TARBIYAH AL-ISLAMIYAH.

In fraternal Maghreb where Muslim magazines are rare, there are the Moroccan publication, DA'WAH AL-HAQQ; the Tunisian, JAWHAR AL-ISLAM; and the Algerian magazine, AL-'ASR which succeeded the magazine AL-ASALAH which ceased publication a few years ago. About 2 years ago the Tunisian magazine AL-MA'RIFAH also ceased publication.

The Moroccan magazine AL-NUR has almost ceased publication just as the magazines, AL-DA'WAH, AL-I'TISAM and AL-MUKHTAR AL-ISLAMI were stifled in Egypt--[but only] for a while God willing--during the well-known September incidents.

We find that there is a serious lack of Islamic publications in certain places, chiefly in the three countries of the Arab Maghreb. The only Islamic magazine we know of in Libya is the official magazine AL-MUSLIM.

We also find upon analysis that there seems to be improvisation and repetition in the production of some newspapers. There are differences in methods of correction, and there is nothing that even comes close to a methodology.

Some magazines are issued as mouthpieces of official agencies. Ideas presented by these magazines are almost restrained by the rules of every agency, and many pages in Islamic magazines are wasted in unnecessary formalities. These items have no analytical or informative elements in them; they are nothing more than blatant propaganda.

There are two problems challenging the Islamic press.

The first problem is how can the Islamic press cover some areas where Islamic magazines are needed, such as West Africa, East Africa and Southeast Asia?

The second problem is how can an appropriate level of agreement over methodology be achieved? How can local pressures be overcome by approving a certain formula and a specific methodology that would forestall all the modes of pressure? There must also be minimum [standards for] production, contemporaneity and clarity of principles.

8592

CSO: 4404/482

AGREEMENT OVER OPEN DOOR POLICY

London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Jun 83 p 6

[Article: "Absence of Disputes Between Supporters and Opponents of Economic Open Door Policy"]

[Text] The Eighth Scientific Conference for Egyptian economists was held recently under the title: "The Role of Government in the Mixed Economic System." This conference is organized annually by the Egyptian Association of Political Economics, Statistics and Legislation in Cairo.

Since the first conference was held in March 1975, it has become the custom for Egyptian economists of various persuasions to meet in March of each year. However, the eighth conference was held 2 months later than that date, due to circumstances pertaining to foreign commitments of some of those participating in the conference. However, interest in the conference was clearly evident this year, since the conference hall was completely filled for most of the sessions, which were held morning and afternoon over a period of 3 days.

The Egyptian Association for Economics and Legislation was anxious that the conference be held in a climate dominated to a considerable extent by intellectual freedom. The obvious goal behind that was to keep any political suspicion away from this conference.

According to Dr Muhammad Zaki Shaf'i, the head of the association, the conference was not to bring together one particular school of economists, but rather to bring together all schools of Egyptian economic thought. This neutral climate was easily perceived by any observer of the conference.

The chairmanship of the conference sessions was carefully distributed among the various trends of thought. Three members alternated as chairman of three sessions, Dr Ahmad al-Ghandur of the National Party, Dr Hilmi Murad of the Socialist Labor Party and Dr Isma'il Sabri 'Abdullah from the National Progressive Grouping.

Three independents chaired the other three sessions, Dr Zaki Shaf'i, Dr Rifa'tal-Mahjub and Dr Husayn Khallaf. Moreover, the economic persuasions of those who addressed the conference varied, whether they were presenting papers or commenting on them. Some were well known for their liberal tendencies, such as

Dr Muhammad 'Ajlan, Dr 'Abd al-Hadi Suwayfi, 'Umar al-Bayli, Dr Muhammad Ridha Sulayman, Dr Ahmad Shalbi and Dr Habbah Hindusah. Others were well known for their leftist leanings, such as Dr Mahmud 'Abd al-Fadhil, Dr 'Uthman Muhammad 'Uthman, Dr Muhammad 'Abd al-Shafi', Dr Muhammad Abu Mandur, Dr 'Umaru Muhi al-Din, Dr Jallal Amin, Dr Ramzi Zaki and Dr Muhammad Duwaydar. Conference discussion clearly reflected this intellectual diversity.

Egyptian Issues

It is clear from the subject of the conference, "the role of the state in a mixed economic system," that it was dealing with a general issue that affected all nations that had adopted this type of economy. Despite that, it was noted that most of the papers presented to the conference, and the discussions centering around them, concentrated on issues pertaining to the Egyptian economy.

This is of course natural for a conference held in Cairo and restricted to Egyptian economists and no others. Among the 12 papers presented to the conference, only three of them dealt with the matter in general. Of these, two papers concerned technology, "Science and Technology, and the Role of the State in the Third World" and the "Role of the State in Regulating the Transfer of Technology in a Mixed Economy." The third paper dealt with the philosophical principle of the economic role of the state.

As regards the other nine papers, they dwelt directly on the Egyptian economy:

- * Two papers concerning the experience of industrialization in Egypt, one of which drew a comparison between the experiences of Muhammad 'Ali and 'Abd al-Nasir with respect to war industrialization, and the other dealt with issues of industrial growth in Egypt, including the role of the state.

- * Two papers concerned the problem of prices in Egypt, one of them concerned pricing imperfections and the principles of price reform in the mixed Egyptian economy, while the other was about the new problems of managing and directing the Egyptian economy in light of the economic open door policy.

- * There were two papers about the problem of agriculture in Egypt, one about the role of the state in the area of agricultural pricing in Egypt, and the other about the policy of agricultural mechanization in Egypt.

- * One paper concerned the making of economic policy in Egypt, and how it was guided.

- * One paper was about guiding the policies of wages and salaries of the state sectors in Egypt.

- * One paper concerned the taxation system in Egypt and how tax exemptions were guided on various levels.

A New Phenomenon

Naturally, the subject of the economic open door policy occupied a place of special importance in the conference discussions. It was clear from the composition of the conference members that there was a wide divergence among them concerning their positions with regard to the open door policy. The liberals approve of this policy as a matter of course, while those with leftist leanings reject it.

Many conference members had previously clarified their position with respect to the open door policy in the past. However, the new phenomenon that set this conference apart was the disappearance of that sharp divergence between the two factions, when the topic of the open door policy was raised.

Special mention should be made of Dr Mahmud 'Abd al-Fadhil's concern with the attempt to guide what he called "the regulated framework of the economic process in the Egyptian community under the aegis of the open door policy." He laid down a main condition for this guidance: that planning be the controlling activity of a course of action.

On the other hand, the liberals did not use the most powerful defense for the economic open door policy. On the contrary, they criticized certain aspects of the government's application of this policy. In fact, there was obvious references, from time to time, to the error of blaming the open door policy itself or the measures liberating the Egyptian economy. However, the main concern was concentrated on searching for shortcomings in the applying of the economic open door policy.

In this context, there was a concentration on the fact that economic decisions did not accompany Egyptian economic problems in a rapid and direct fashion. It was noted that concentrating on this problem itself included tacit criticism of the state's maintaining its strong control over the various aspects of economic activities.

Thus, the economic open door policy occupied a top priority in the discussions of the eighth conference of Egyptian economists.

Evidently, many were aware, from the recent statements of Egyptian President Husni Mubarek, that there was no room to turn back from the open door policy. The supporters of this policy were reassured and have begun to attempt to guide it, even if the matter should require criticism of certain of its aspects.

At the same time, the opponents of this policy have begun to change the ways through which they deal with the problems of the Egyptian economy, by searching for solutions to them in light of the open door policy itself. This is a new and healthy phenomenon in Egyptian economic thought, which preaches the best and most effective method of dealing with the problems of the Egyptian economy.

7005

CSO: 4504/438

ANTI-CORRUPTION MEASURES DISCUSSED

London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Jun 83 p 3

[Article: "Anti-Corruption Plan in Egypt Submitted by the Socialist Prosecutor to President Mubarak"]

[Text] 'Abd al-Qadir Ahmad, the Socialist Public Prosecutor in Egypt and his assistants, have prepared a plan to prevent corruption and to plug the crooked loopholes in the various spheres of economic activity, in light of the revelations of the corruption cases investigated by the Socialist prosecutor's office during the past year, in terms of shortcomings in the laws and regulations that govern economic activity in Egypt. This especially concerns the activity of the private sector and the loopholes that have allowed some adventurers to realize easy and quick gains. Despite that, they have also been evading their tax obligations, and this has become especially clear in the notorious cases investigated by the Public Prosecutor's office in Egypt, which have preoccupied the attention of public opinion both inside and outside of Egypt, most notably the cases of 'Ismat al-Sadat, Rashad 'Uthman and Tawfiq 'Abd al-Hayy.

The annual report, prepared by the Socialist Prosecutor in Egypt about his activity, and which he submits to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, includes a comprehensive review of the proposed plan to protect against corruption and to plug the crooked loopholes.

The annual report, as is the case each year, was not limited to a review of the activity of the Socialist Prosecutor's Office during the past year, such as the number of cases that it investigated, the amount of funds it sequestered and an account of its stewardship, but it also included for the first time, a large and detailed group of proposals, drawn from the lessons learned from cases that the office investigated. These proposals constitute a framework for a comprehensive anti-corruption plan in Egypt, to plug the crooked loopholes within the spheres of economic activity.

The plan that the Socialist Prosecutor proposes to prevent corruption in Egypt includes seven important proposals:

1. A reconsideration of current Egyptian legislation and laws which regulate the possession and dealing in foreign currency. This legislation has permitted the possession of foreign currency, but at the same time, it forbade

dealing in it except in a restricted sphere. This contradiction in the current legislation in Egypt was one cause for the flourishing of and trade in foreign currency outside of the banking system and on the black market, which led to the decline in the exchange rate of the Egyptian pound.

Accordingly, it has become necessary--as the Egyptian Socialist Public Prosecutor proposes--to take another look at this legislation, in order to eliminate this defect in it, to guarantee the state's control over sources of foreign currency inside the country, to eliminate the local middlemen, and to eliminate trafficking in foreign currency outside of the Egyptian banking system on the black market.

2. The exchange rate of the Egyptian pound should be fixed with respect to foreign currency, in order to encourage Egyptians working abroad to remit their savings through Egyptian banks and not through local middlemen. It has been noted that exchange rates in Egypt have no stability, and their multiplicity is one of the chief reasons for the decline of remittances of Egyptians working abroad through the banks and the transfer of these remittances into the black market.

Imports

3. The system of importing from abroad should be reorganized in light of the economic development plan and the foreign currency resources available to Egypt. The Socialist Prosecutor's office has noted that Egyptian legislation, when it allows importing without the remittance of currency, only shares in increasing the demand for foreign currency outside of the Egyptian banking system, which has led to the increase of foreign currency exchange rates in the free market and, consequently, the constant drop in the price of the Egyptian pound.

4. A new integrated legislative system should be established which will seriously ensure and control the monitoring of all stages of the process of importing foodstuffs, and a stiffening of penalties in this new proposed legislation against importers and merchants who import spoiled foodstuffs and offer them for sale in the markets, so that these stiff penalties will form an adequate deterrent to these importers.

Experts of the Socialist Public Prosecutor's staff have noted through the cases which they have investigated, notably the case of Tawfiq 'Abd al-Hayy, that there are a number of crooks who have taken advantage of the private trend within Egypt, which allows the importation of foodstuffs from abroad. They have tried to make a quick profit by importing spoiled foodstuffs and offering them for sale in Egyptian markets, disdainful of the penalties in the existing Egyptian laws and legislation.

Taxes

5. Greater efforts should be made by taxation agencies in Egypt to learn the true incomes of citizens, especially of those who work in the private economic sector, and to hold them accountable in terms of taxes for these incomes, in

order to increase the state's public revenues, and in order to achieve social justice, since investigations conducted by the Socialist Public Prosecutor into economic cases have revealed that a great many people with large incomes deliberately conceal the real size of their activities, for the purpose of evading payment of their tax obligations or to pay only a lesser amount.

6. The Office of the Socialist Public Prosecutor also requests support for the monitoring role of the Egyptian Central Bank over all units of the banking system in Egypt, in accordance with the existing Egyptian laws and regulations, and the issuance of regulatory instructions required in this regard, with which all banks in Egypt must comply, whether they be national, foreign or joint. This is to avoid repetitions of errors made by the management of some banks, especially joint banks, which came to light as a result of investigations. These bank managements did not strictly perform their duty in looking into the financial positions of middlemen, the size of their advance guarantees or follow up payments in the stages of the credit process, which resulted in some of these persons obtaining millions of pounds from the banks as loans and credit easements which they did not pay off, or rather, some fled the country with the money they had obtained.

Trespassing on State Lands

7. Finally, the Socialist Public Prosecutor requests in his report expediting the preparation of a comprehensive list of state property in Egypt, headed by the land which, as revealed by investigations, some individuals trespass on and exploit to obtain huge material gains. The necessary measures should be adopted to eliminate these violations, especially since they extend to a vast area of state-owned lands, in order to protect public property.

It is worth noting that the value of the funds that the Socialist Public Prosecutor's Office succeeded in sequestering, due to the owners' involvement in acts of corruption, crookedness and exploitation of influence amounted, up to the end of last year, to approximately 326 million pounds, of which 4.3 million pounds were liquid funds and the remainder real estate, numbering some 204 properties, and agricultural land totaling some 1,419 feddans, as well as open land totaling about one-half million square meters, in addition to about 83 million pounds in moveable property, including vehicles, jewelry, etc.

The office is managing all of these funds, in the absence of their owners.

7005

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JUDICIARY SEEKS INDEPENDENCE OF SYSTEM

London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Jun 83 p 3

[Article: "Egypt: New Attempts by the Judiciary to Revive The Supreme Council for Judicial Bodies to Insure the Independence of the Judicial System"]

[Text] Dr Fu'ad Muhi al-Din, the Egyptian prime minister, has promised the Egyptian judiciary to consider their demands pertaining to the independence of the judiciary and the revival of the Supreme Council for Judicial Bodies, under the leadership of the chief of the Court of Cassation, to supervise their affairs. The Egyptian prime minister gave this promise to the judges during a recent meeting with them.

During this meeting, the judges renewed the demand for the revival of the Supreme Council for Judicial Bodies, which was dissolved in 1969, when the Supreme Judicial Council was established as a replacement for it. This council is chaired by the president of the republic, and has the minister of justice among its membership. The Board of Directors of the Judges' Association submitted a new memorandum to the Egyptian prime minister, which included a comprehensive review of their demands, and a new draft law for the Supreme Council of Judicial Bodies, which the general assembly of the association has approved, along with its board of directors.

The draft requires the formation of the council to include the chief justice of the Supreme Court, the chief of the Council of State, the chief of the Appellate Court of Cairo, the public prosecutor, the chief of the government's Department of Legal Affairs, the director of the administrative prosecution office, the senior deputies of the chief of the Council of State, and the senior of the chiefs of Cairo's Courts of First Instance. This council would be chaired by the chief of the Court of Cassation.

The draft also stipulates that this council be granted all the necessary authority to supervise the affairs of the judiciary and judges in Egypt, and to manage the affairs of the Egyptian judicial bodies, free of any governmental interference, as a guarantee of judicial independence.

The memorandum indicates that revival of the Supreme Council of Judicial Bodies would confirm the judges' feelings of independence and respond to their feeling of abandonment following the abolishment of this council in 1969,

despite the fact that the Wafdist government had established it before the revolution particularly to insure judicial independence.

At the same time, the judges' association proposes the retention of the present Supreme Judicial Council, which is chaired by the president of the republic and on which the minister of justice is a member, or rather, he takes the president's place in the council chair, in the event the president is absent. This council should be retained so long as the Egyptian constitution stipulates, in article no. 173, that a supreme council chaired by the president of the republic should watch over the affairs of the judicial bodies.

However, the memorandum calls for reconsideration of this council's jurisdictions and duties entrusted to it, in order to confirm the independence of the judicial bodies in their management of their members' affairs, by virtue of the fact that each body is best able to manage its members' affairs.

Supreme Council's Jurisdictions

The judges' association requested the abrogation of the Supreme Council's current jurisdictions pertaining to the affairs of judiciary body members, and the powers decreed for the council by the Judicial Authority law no. 46 for 1972. This includes abrogating the special stipulation in this law that allows the minister of justice to transfer a member of the prosecutor's office to a non-judicial job without a disciplinary action. It would also cancel all powers pertaining to administrative prosecution affairs and the members of the Council of State and the government's Council of Legal Affairs, as well as abolishing the subordination of the Department of Judicial Investigations and the Public Prosecution's Office to the minister of justice and attaching them to the Court of Cassation.

The draft also includes a stipulation that members of the Public Prosecution Office can only be dismissed in the same manner as judges.

The judges' association memorandum proposes transferring these powers, which would be abolished, from within the jurisdictions of the Supreme Judicial Council, chaired by the president of the republic, to the Supreme Council of Judicial Bodies (old), which would be chaired by the chief of the Court of Cassation and in which the Egyptian minister of justice would not participate.

The Egyptian prime minister promised the board of directors of judges' association to study these demands and to try to comply with them or with some of them. He said that it was the government's intent to comply with some of these demands, especially the request to reconsider the Supreme Judicial Council's powers and to grant the judicial bodies increased jurisdictions and authority in the management of their members' affairs. Dr Fu'ad Muhi al-Din indicated this during his meeting with members of the association's board of directors.

The government's view is based on the fact that the Egyptian constitution stipulates the establishment of the Supreme Judicial Council to be chaired by the president, and that it would have jurisdiction over the affairs of judges.

However, the establishment of another supreme council for judicial bodies, apart from the present Supreme Judicial Council, would not require changing the constitution.

In this regard, Counselor Mumtaz Nassar, an independent member of the People's Assembly, has submitted a new draft law, which had been submitted in the Assembly's previous session and reintroduced in the new session. This draft requires the retention of the present Supreme Judicial Council and its chairmanship by the president of the republic, so long as the constitution stipulates that. However, it proposes the removal of the minister of justice from membership on this council. It also proposes a reconsideration of its tasks, so that it would be occupied only with larger duties, concerned only with coordination among the judicial bodies, providing guarantees to maintain their independence and providing resources and means for them to fulfill their mission, anchoring the foundations of justice and the sovereignty of law. This would be done after shifting the other jurisdictions to the various judicial bodies in Egypt.

7005

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LIBYAN-WEST GERMAN TIES EMPHASIZED

East Burnham ARABIA THE ISLAMIC WORLD REVIEW in English No 23, Jul 83 p 33

[Article by Simon Dowell]

[Text]

Western governments were privately angered by West Germany's recent decision to swap three detained Libyans, one of them a convicted assassin, for 12 of its nationals being held in Libya. In the first of the swaps, on May 9, the West Germans released Elmida Bashir Elmida, a 29-year-old Libyan who was convicted in 1980 for the murder that year in Bonn of a former Libyan diplomat who had become an opponent of the Qaddafi regime. In exchange, home went four West Germans - three of whom had been found guilty of alcohol offences, the other being a worker at the American embassy in Tripoli who had been detained when the building was sacked by rioters in 1980.

At this point, quiet protests began to reach Bonn from other western governments. The West German ambassador in London, Dr Jurgen Ruhfus, was called to the Foreign Office to hear a senior official express British dismay at the move. Hardline British policy has been to turn down such swap deals, and in recent months London has spurned similar approaches from both Iraq and Libya. Officially, however, both the Foreign Office and the US State Department have refused to criticise the West Germans openly and have protested in private.

Then, six days after the first exchange, the West Germans did it again. Two Libyans on trial in Bonn, for the torture and attempted abduction of two exiled nationals opposed to Qaddafi, were exchanged for eight Germans who had been detained on vague charges in Tripoli.

The reaction of other governments remained mild. One Foreign Office official said: "We made our point and that is that. We have made it clear that we will have no part in such deals, but since the Germans had

established a precedent it would have been hard for them to have turned down a second swap. It is their business."

But there was no such mild reaction among businessmen having regular dealings with Libya. One senior executive, with more than ten years of work in Libya, said: "When I heard the news, I was appalled. I couldn't believe it. I rang the German embassy to confirm it, and when they did I made my thoughts quite clear.

"I was told that the Germans believe they have obtained cast-iron guarantees that this sort of thing will never happen again to German citizens. But sadly, in the past, Libyan guarantees - for instance to the Americans - haven't amounted to much. What the West Germans have done is not just to imperil the safety of their own people in difficult countries like Libya and Iraq, where they have substantial commercial interests, but also the safety of every other expatriate."

In Libya, anger and fear have been the reactions of many of the 3,500 German nationals there. It is reported that there have been at least a dozen job resignations among the community. One German businessman from Tripoli, passing through London, said: "Of the eight men who were held recently, two are from a company I do a lot of business with . . . they were treated well, it is true, but it was obvious to us all that they were being held as hostages against the outcome of the trial of these Libyans in Bonn. The authorities said something or other about them all being guilty of industrial espionage, but the truth is that they were just ordinary fellows doing their job."

After the first exchange, Bonn claimed it had acted on "humanitarian grounds" because three of the imprisoned men were in poor

health, partly as a result of the "harsh" conditions in which they were kept. No such reason could apply with the second batch, as all eight were being held under house arrest in Tripoli in apparently good conditions.

The truth appears to be that the West Germans are reluctant to jeopardise their lucrative trading relationship with Libya. Recent cutbacks by the Qaddafi regime have slashed trade with most European countries by roughly half, but the Germans have seen their trade diminish by only 15 per cent. Their order books for Libya run into billions of dollars: in 1982, West German exports to Tripoli were worth \$1.1bn; in return, Libya supplied one sixth of West German oil needs, worth \$2.8bn.

Jurgen Mollemann, the state minister at the Bonn foreign office who negotiated the first swap (and probably the second as well) during an April visit to Tripoli, later came close to admitting the commercial imperative. After the second swap had taken place at Frankfurt airport, he commented: "Realistically, we must take foreign economic policy considerations into account." He denied, however, that the German government had given in to "blackmail."

Commentators in the West German media see the whole affair differently. They are quite clear that the affair means that Bonn has caved in to outside pressure designed to prevent justice – in the shape of the trial of the two alleged Libyan torturers – being done. They fear that the consequences of the government's action will be disastrous.

CSO: 4500/243

1981-1982 DEVELOPMENT IN AGRICULTURE EXAMINED

Casablanca MAROC SOIR in French 28 Jun 83 p 2

[Text] Despite the continuing crisis in the world, agriculture in Morocco has enjoyed a 30-percent increase in production, according to the bimonthly journal of the BMCE [Moroccan Foreign Trade Bank].

The record drawn up by the journal emphasizes the favorable conditions from which the 1981-1982 season profited and the fairly abundant, well-distributed rainfall. The improvement in farm production is mainly due to the increased production of the different crops: grain, legumes, industrial crops, citrus fruits, olives and oil-yielding crops.

Grain

The 1981-1982 Moroccan grain harvest was up 131 percent, going from a total of 21,218,000,000 quintals to 49,044,000,000 quintals.

"Since the area planted remained practically unchanged, this performance is moderate if one compares it with averages achieved during the 1973-1977 period and the 1978-1980 span, which had respective totals of 40,556,000,000 quintals and 44,643,000,000 quintals.

"Regarding the four main grain crops, areas planted totaled 4,132,000,000 hectares, or 96.6 percent of the total area used for grain.

"Production of the main crops (hard and soft wheat, barley, corn) amounted to 47.64 billion quintals, or 9.71 percent [sic] of all grain (not including rice).

"It must be pointed out that production of soft wheat during the 1981-1982 season is the highest ever recorded by Morocco, even exceeding that of the exceptional 1967-1968 harvest, which was 7,094,000,000 quintals.

"This growth in production of soft wheat is essentially explained by the major increase in the amount of land devoted to the crop, which went from 481,400 hectares to 579,000 hectares (over 20.27 percent).

"In addition, the two predominant crops were barley, with 47.6 percent, and hard wheat, with 28.7 percent.

"On the whole and although the grain crop during the season was better than averages registered over the 1973-1977 period and the 1978-1980 span, it is under the country's needs, estimated at 64 million quintals and steadily increasing at a rate of 5 percent a year.

"Therefore, in order to ensure a reliable and adequate supply, it was necessary to import the balance. Although imports were down from the preceding season, when they totaled 26.6 million quintals, they nevertheless totaled nearly 15 million quintals, including 12,562,000 quintals of wheat, 1,1225,000,000 quintals of barley and 1.2 million quintals of corn. These imports were necessary in order to make it from one season to the next and meet the country's food shortage.

"Finally, it should be pointed out that the government decided in 1982 to increase the price of grain, raising it from 135 to 140 dirhams for hard and soft wheat and from 96 to 100 dirhams for barley. This was in order to compensate for the increased costs and assure farmers of a good price so as to encourage production.

"Likewise and within the framework of incentives aimed at giving additional encouragement to the equipping of agriculture, it was decided to grant an overall exemption from customs duties and taxes on such machinery and equipment. These measures resulted in an increase in the national tractor pool, mainly through imports of such machinery (sales of 4,000 farm tractors in 1982, compared with an average of 2,000 in past years)."

Legumes

"The legume harvest, an estimated 2,216,000,000 quintals, shows an increase of 232 percent over the preceding season (.667 million quintals), but it remains down 11 percent compared with the average for the 1978-1980 period (2.9 million quintals), which is itself 32 percent lower than that of the 1973-1977 period.

"This performance, under average levels of production, is the result in a 3-percent decline in areas planted and an overall average yield of 75 quintals per hectare."

Industrial Crops

Sugar

"During the 1981-1982 season, overall production of sugar crops is an estimated 2.825,300 tons of beets and sugar cane, compared with 2,737,200 tons in 1980-1981, an increase of 3.2 percent.

"This increase covers contradictory results, however, with a 5-percent increase in beet production, which totaled 2,315,300 tons, compared with 2,114,680 tons in 1980-1981, and an 18-percent drop in cane production compared with the 1980-1981 level.

"Actually, cane production was 510,000 tons, compared with 622,500 tons the preceding year.

"Under such conditions, sugar production from beets and cane was 374,700 tons, compared with 353,050 tons a year earlier.

"The rate of cover of national sugar needs by local production is 59 percent, compared with 60 percent in 1980."

Cotton

"Cotton, which was planted on 10,525 hectares compared with 11,400 in 1980-1981, had a production of 19,950 tons, an increase of 6.4 percent over the preceding season, when the crop totaled 18,740 tons."

Citrus Fruits

"Total production of citrus fruits for the 1981-1982 season was 99,000 tons, compared with 98,000 tons in 1980-1981, an increase of 1 percent. This slight improvement is significant when one realizes the unfavorable climate conditions prevailing during the season.

"With respect to varieties, there was a decline in clementine, which had a production of 297,000 tons this year, compared with 303,000 tons in 1980-1981.

"Navel oranges showed a drop of over 24 percent, going from 221,500 tons in 1980-1981 to 167,500 tons. Between season crops remained practically at the same level as in 1980-1981, when it was 101,500 tons. In 1981-1982, it was 108,500 tons.

"With respect to later crops, production was 411,000 tons, compared with 357,000 in 1980-1981, an increase of 15 percent.

"Concerning exports, production showed a drop of 12.4 percent.

"Total exports of citrus fruits were 605,550 tons, compared with 690,000 tons the preceding season.

"One should also point out that this drop is mainly the result of navels, late oranges and clementines.

"The structure of exports shows that out of a total exported tonnage of 605,550, 396,103 tons, or 65.45 percent, went to West Europe, while 209,447 tons were shipped to contract markets, compared with 297,522 tons in 1981.

"The drop in tonnages exported to contract markets essentially results from the drop in volumes exported to the USSR and Saudi Arabia.

"With respect to marketing to foreign countries, conditions were relatively favorable. Prices were clearly up for clementines and near to those for the past season for oranges.

"The promotion policy followed nationally made it possible to have an increase in the domestic market's absorption capacity on the order of 34 percent compared with 1980-1981, a level of 380,000 tons."

Early Produce

"Total exports of early produce in 1981-1982 were somewhat lower than during the preceding season, amounting to 115,800 tons, compared with 118,600, a drop of 2.4 percent compared with 1980-1981 and 29.4 percent compared with the 1978-1980 average.

"The (FOB) total of export receipts remains substantially the same as for the past season: 326.3 million dirhams, compared with 336 million in 1980-1981."

Olives

"The 1981-1982 olive season enjoyed good conditions and the crop totaled 350,000 tons. Yield, which in 1980-1981 had fallen substantially, bringing production to 277,000 tons, improved. The 1982-1983 crop is an estimated 450,000 tons and resulted in the extraction of 40,000 tons of oil."

Oil-Yielding Crops

"Production of oil-yielding crops was 470,200 quintals, an increase of 77.3 percent over the preceding season.

"This improvement in oil-yielding crops is essentially due to peanuts, whose production rose 128.6 percent thanks to a greater area planted, but especially to greater yield, which went from 5.6 quintals per hectare to 11.1.

"In contrast, production of sunflowers, an estimated 62,800 quintals, dropped 27.8 percent as a result of a smaller area: from 14,900 to 12,800 hectares, and a drop in yield from 5.8 quintals per hectare to 4.9."

11,464

CSO: 4519/278

NEW FISCAL MEASURES REVEALED

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 2 Jul 83 p 2

[Article: "New Fiscal Measures"]

[Text] - Many articles of the Finance Law have been amended or repealed.

- Increased flexibility and lighter taxes to encourage production.

At its last meeting, last Thursday, the Cabinet adopted new fiscal measures amending or repealing some articles in the 1983 Finance Law.

Thus, the fee created by Article 47 of the law and concerning certificates or copies from official records has been reduced from 5 to 1 dinar per page.

The provision contained in the same article, concerning the single statement and the information it must contain will not be applied, the Cabinet having decided to put it off.

The old Article 53 instituted rather heavy fines, the amounts of which have been reduced by the new fiscal measures. Note that a distinction is now made between elements reflecting the lifestyle and elements forming the estate.

The new measures also put a limitation on the penalties provided under Article 56 for failure to file.

The annual interest on taxes paid late (10.5 percent) has been cancelled; the old regime remains applicable, especially Article 59 of the Finance Law.

Articles 61, 62 and 63 were found too difficult to apply and have been repealed.

Similarly, the obligation to prove to certain public services that taxes had been paid has been repealed. Article 66 con-

cerning the settlement of transactions involving more than 5,000 dinars and providing that a bank or postal check should be used has also been repealed.

The new fiscal measures also introduce new provisions in Articles 69, 70, 71 and 72 concerning the renunciation to certain amounts due, penalties and late interest.

In this respect, the new measures extend to 1 July 1984 the deadline before which taxpayers must pay what they owe in three successive installments. The same measures also provide that the first 20 percent installment must be paid before 1 October 1983, another 40 percent before 1 January 1984, and the remaining 40 percent before 1 July 1984.

The new measures, which are of a corrective nature and intended to provide incentives and encourage production, also attempt to provide more justice. They also touch on relations between the Central Bank and the banking system by introducing credit facilities.

Finally, the new measures also deal with price revision, economic and foreign trade control and encourage exports.

Article 47: Creation of a Fee to Issue Certificates or Copies From Official Records

Old Text

- Tax collectors delivering certificates or copies from official records to one of the contracting parties or their assigns shall collect a tax-free research fee for the State budget, according to the following tariff:

- Set fee per page: five dinars.

This set fee shall be increased by one dinar per Gregorian calendar year or fraction of a year from the date the record was made to the date the copy or certificate was delivered.

Any previous provisions contrary to the above are repealed.

New Text

The set fee per page is reduced to one dinar.

Article 52:

Old Text

- It provides a list of the information that must be given in the single income statement filed by the taxpayer, and in particular the obligation

to declare the number of trips made by all family members, the total price of transportation tickets, and the total amount of foreign currency allocations transferred, as well as the reasons for these trips.

New Text

It was decided to postpone the application of this procedure, experience having shown that it is ineffective and difficult to enforce.

Article 53: Infraction of, or Failure to Comply With Provisions Concerning Lifestyle Elements Reported in the Single Income Statement

Old Text

- Article 17 of Law No 62-72 dated 31 December 1962 instituting a single income statement is amended and replaced by the following provisions:

New Article 17: - Any infraction of, or failure to comply with the provisions of this law, with the exception of those for which special sanctions are provided, shall be punished by a fiscal fine to be paid by the taxpayer or his heirs and amounting to:

- 100 dinars for each element of the lifestyle or element of the estate worth less than 5,000 dinars that shall not have been reported or shall have been reported inaccurately.
- 200 dinars for each element of the estate worth between 5,000 and 10,000 dinars that shall not have been reported or shall have been reported inaccurately.
- 500 dinars for each element of the estate worth over 10,000 dinars that shall not have been reported or shall have been reported inaccurately.
- 100 dinars for any other infraction.

The infractions shall be found by duly sworn agents of the Fiscal Administration.

The corresponding fines, which shall not be reduced or remitted, shall be assessed directly and recovered as in the case of registry or stamp duties.

New Text

These provisions result in fines which taxpayers cannot pay; their implementation is also a source of considerable difficulties for the Administration (as, for the same income statement, it must assess real estate and start legal proceedings in various regions of the country).

Therefore, it was decided to amend this article by introducing a distinction between the following elements:

1) Elements of the lifestyle: a 50-dinar fine is instituted for each element not reported.

2) Elements of the estate: a fine amounting to 10 percent of the net income derived from the taxable estate shall be applied on all elements omitted from the statement.

Article 56: Concerning the Failure of Persons Mentioned in Article 1 of the Trade License Code to File a Statement of Opening or a Statement of Taxable Income Subject to the Trade License Tax or to the Tax on Profits From Non-Trade Occupations

Old Text

- Should persons mentioned in Article 1 of the Trade License Code fail to file within the prescribed time a statement of opening or a statement of income subject to the trade license tax or to the tax on profits from non-trade occupations, a report shall be drawn up and they shall have to pay a fine equal to 10 percent of the tax amount they may owe but no less than 50 dinars; this shall be in addition to the fiscal sanctions provided under Article 15 of the above-mentioned law.

- In such cases, the premises used to exercise the trade, industry or profession involved may also be closed for a period of at least 15 days and until the statements for which there is default have been filed and the resulting fees, if any, paid.

However, as far as the single income statement is concerned, the premises shall be closed only after the taxpayer has been issued a summons to regularize his tax situation within one month.

- The closing decision mentioned in the paragraph above shall be made by the minister of plan and finances and shall be enforced immediately.

The closing decision shall be posted in large letters at the main doors of plants, offices and workshops, and in shopwindows.

- Should an enterprise be closed by administrative decision, and as long as it remains closed, the delinquent taxpayer shall continue to pay to his personnel the wages, indemnities and remunerations of all kind to which his personnel had been entitled until then.

New Text

These provisions may prove prejudicial to citizens and the economic activity, in particular due to the loss of the source of income, all the more so as Article 57 that follows provides for penalties applicable in such cases.

Thus, it was decided:

1) To limit the penalty for failure to file an opening statement to an amount not to exceed 20 dinars.

2) To repeal the provision concerning the closure of the premises used to exercise the trade, industry or profession involved, considering that the filing of an opening statement represents the mere fulfillment of a legal obligation that is not accompanied by the payment of a tax or fee.

Article 57: Concerning the Assessment of Penalties.

This article lists the penalty rates from 10 to 35 percent to be assessed after a control operation and to be accompanied by a statement of the reasons for which they have been assessed.

However, the article provides for a 45 percent rate to punish certain infractions, the nature of which is not indicated (actually, Article 57, paragraph 8, indicates: "40 percent when duties are due in other cases").

The latter provision could lead to abuses that would be prejudicial to the citizens.

As a result, it was decided to repeal the 40 percent rate as it does not apply to specific cases.

Article 60: Concerning Taxes Paid When Past Due, Either Spontaneously or After a Control

Old Text

- Taxes paid when past due, either spontaneously or following a control, are subject to the payment of an annual interest at a rate that shall not exceed the rate applicable on bank overdraft as determined by the Central Bank of Tunisia; the interest shall accrue from the date on which the tax should normally have been paid.

Should taxpayers disagree with any adjustment in the principal tax amount due, as long as, as a guarantee, they deposit all or part of the tax amount involved with a public finance agent, the interest shall stop accruing on the amount deposited from the date of such deposit.

The provisions of the paragraph above shall apply to taxes that would be found due on or after 1 July 1983, and to amounts or portions of amounts due that would still be found due on that date.

New Text

This article provided that an annual interest of 10.5 percent would be assessed on taxes paid when past due, and that it would accrue from the date when the tax should normally have been paid.

This increase represents a proportion of 42 percent of the initial tax.

Therefore, it was decided:

- to repeal this article
- to be content with the application of the old regime
- to be content with the application of Article 59 of the Finance Law.

Articles 61, 62 and 63: Concerning Billing

Old Text

- Article 61: Any sale of goods by a manufacturer, merchant or producer of artisanal products to another manufacturer, merchant or producer of artisanal products must be accompanied by the creation of an invoice giving the information prescribed by the order issued on 26 October 1970 by the minister of national economy, and also the tax identification number of the seller.
- Article 62: This article provides that an invoice shall be established when goods other than those intended for consumption by individuals are circulated.
- Article 63: This article provides for penalties for failure to comply with the provisions of Articles 61 and 62.

New Text

It was decided to repeal these three articles because of the difficulties experienced by the Administration in enforcing them, and because of probable reactions on the part of citizens.

Article 64: Concerning the Obligation to Prove to Certain Public Services That Taxes Have Been Paid

Old Text

- Once a year, importers must file with the General Directorate of Customs a statement showing that they have filed tax returns and paid the amounts they were found to owe; otherwise they shall not be allowed to carry out import transactions.

These provisions shall become applicable on 1 July 1983 and shall supersede the provisions of Article 13 of Law 76-115 of 31 December 1976.

New Text

It was decided to repeal these provisions, as their application would hinder the country's economic activity.

Article 66: Concerning the Settlement of Transactions Involving Over 5,000 Dinars

Old Text

- All transactions involving amounts in excess of 5,000 dinars shall be settled by a crossed bank or postal check to order, or by bank or postal transfer.

Any infraction to these provisions shall result in the assessment of a fine equal to the amount of the transaction.

Infractions shall be prosecuted and repressed according to the provisions of the decree dated 3 October 1884.

New Text

It was decided to repeal this article, considering the difficulties inherent in its application on the one hand and, on the other hand, because of the severity of the repressive measures it contains.

In addition, it is ineffective and the citizens are not well aware of its provisions.

Articles 69, 70, 71 and 72: Concerning the Renunciation to Certain Amounts Due, Penalties and Late Interest

Old Text

Article 69: The State shall relinquish to those who owe them all amounts due or portions of amounts due equal to or less than 10 dinars' worth of simple taxes per item due to the State, as well as the penalties and interest due for late payment assessed on these items and not yet paid, and listed in the records of public finance agents on 31 December 1979.

Article 70: The State shall relinquish to those who owe them half the amounts due or portions of amounts due in excess of 10 dinars but not exceeding 100 dinars' worth of simple taxes per item due to the State, and remaining unpaid, as well as the penalties and interest for late payment assessed on said items and listed in the records of public finance agents on 31 December 1979, provided these amounts due were initially equal to or less than 500 dinars' worth of simple taxes.

The provisions of this article shall apply as long as one half of the simple-tax amount due or portion of amount due is actually paid before 1 July 1983.

Article 71: The amounts due relinquished under Articles 69 and 70 of this law shall be construed as being not only the simple-tax amounts due but also the court and proceeding costs and any other expenses incurred by the Administration.

The provisions of Articles 69 and 70 of this law shall apply:

- 1) To tax amounts owed to the State.
- 2) To amounts due as a result of transactions or sentences resulting from infractions of customs and exchange laws and regulations.
- 3) To amounts due to the state as fines and amounts due as a result of court decisions.

Article 72: The State shall fully relinquish the penalties and interest for late payment assessed on tax amounts or portions of tax amounts due in excess of 100 dinars but not exceeding 500 dinars' worth of simple tax per item remaining unpaid, as mentioned in the records of public finance agents on 31 December 1979, and which were initially equal to or less than 500 dinars of simple taxes, as long as the simple-tax amounts per item are paid in full before 1 July 1983.

- The penalties assessed on tax amounts due to the State, regardless of the amount involved per item, which were listed in records of public finance agents on 31 December 1982, as well as those that would be assessed until 30 June 1983 and would involve tax amounts due prior to 1 January 1983, shall be fully and automatically relinquished as long as the simple-tax amounts per item and the corresponding late interest are actually paid in full before 1 July 1983.

- The penalties and late-payment indemnities assessed on tax amounts due to the State and payable prior to 1 January 1983 shall be fully relinquished as long as payment of the simple-tax amounts is spontaneously made before 1 July 1983.

New Text

It was decided to extend the deadline and to allow taxpayers to pay the amounts owed in three successive installments prior to 1 July 1984.

- The first installment shall be 20 percent and must be paid before 1 October 1983.
- The second installment shall be 40 percent and must be paid before 1 January 1984.
- The third installment shall be 40 percent and must be paid before 1 July 1984.

The taxes due shall be paid all together, in accordance with the records of public finance agents, and not item by item.

Financial Measures

They involve relations with the Central Bank and the banking system as a whole. They introduce credit facilities.

As a result, the following were decided:

- 1) Extension of the validity of commercial operations with foreign countries from 90 to 180 days, and even 360 days, in order to cope with certain difficulties and stimulate the export sector (for instance the textile sector).
- 2) Partial financing of the Working Capital Fund to benefit small and medium-size enterprises.
- 3) Granting of additional credits to finance inventories in the context of market restrictions: textile, eggs, poultry, canned food.

Commercial and Economic Measures

A) Domestic Trade

- Implementation of the law on material price setting: provisions aimed at easing administrative procedures in the context of decentralization are being studied: documents would be filed with the regional services of the Ministry of National Economy and travelling in person to the capital would no longer be necessary.

- Price revision: the level of prices must be maintained in the context of national agreement and solidarity among all parties. But solidarity does not mean working at a loss as the latter would result in a loss to the community as a whole, employers, employees and consumers.

The government is quite prepared to revise certain prices, after an examination of each case, in the context of consultation between the administration and the producers.

- Economic control: it is indispensable and not at all vindictive, its only objective being to protect the profession against intruders and parasites. If there are transgressions, they are of an individual nature and do not reflect a definite policy. Needless to say, human action should not take place without an effort at reflection which could sometimes be superfluous [as published]. Nevertheless, the Administration will make sure that economic control continues to be practised within professional and moral limits and in a spirit of mutual confidence and optimism.

B) Foreign Trade

Circumstances which we hope are temporary have caused the Administration to restrict imports, including raw material and semi-finished product imports, to 80 percent of the volumes imported in 1982. Based on this optimistic view of the development of the balance of payment, the government is contemplating a revision of these rates to adapt them to the actual needs of the sectors involved.

- Incentives to export

The government is considering two projects:

- the first one to encourage exporting companies
- the second one to ensure foreign-trade operations.

9294

CSO: 4519/280

RELATIONS WITH AFRICAN COUNTRIES DISCUSSED

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 19 Jun 83 p 10

[Article by Yo'av Qarni: "'Africa Will Not Renew Its Relations with Israel as long as Pact with South Africa Continues,' According to International Conference on 'Africa and the Superpowers,' which Took Place This Month in Nigeria, Attended by Israeli Scholar"]

[Text] One Year After Renewal of Israel-Zaire Relations, the Great 'Breakthrough' Is not Forthcoming, as Predicted in Jerusalem;

In Nigeria, the Largest and Most Important State in Africa, Debates on Israel Are Part of Internal Conflicts.

Relations between Israel and Zaire were renewed a little over a year ago, but the "breakthrough" predicted in Israel did not take place. Not one African ruler followed in the footsteps of Mobutu Sese Seko, not even when Israel offers a package deal which includes military aid to protect the regime which would agree to accept an Israeli ambassador after 10 years of broken relations.

One may perhaps draw an analogy between Zaire and Egypt. For years Israel has spoken about the "first Arab state" that would sign a peace agreement with us. It was believed that several states would fight over the second place. So one only had to break the ice and find one state. The same was true in Africa. Almost from the moment of the first break-off, in fall 1973, one tried to guess which African state would be the first, departing from the same assumption. The first would be followed by the second, third and fourth. In both instances the assumption was wrong.

According to the above theory, the Zaire affair did not work out because Zaire remained isolated and somewhat reserved (President Mobutu refuses to come to Jerusalem).

This month the University of Ife in Nigeria held an international conference on "Africa and the Superpowers," in which African-Middle Eastern relations were discussed, particularly relations with Israel. An Israeli scholar, Dr Naomi Hazan from the Truman Institute of Hebrew University, was invited to speak at the conference. It was a quasi-academic, quasi-political event. The university

has the only department in all of black Africa for international relations. The conference was attended by African and non-African delegates. Not all of them regarded it with the same seriousness. To the Soviets, for example, who sent diplomats disguised as academicians, it was a political event, and they tried to score in the area of public relations.

Interestingly, the conference passed resolutions some of which did not sound academic. It is not common for such conferences to issue "joint statements" on Israeli-African affairs.

"Israeli-African relations are changing," the conference states, but it added "As long as Israel...continues to maintain relations with South Africa, its relations with the African continent cannot be renewed." Although the conference is not an executive body and cannot implement resolutions, it still can show the mood, at least, of the host country. Nigeria, the largest and most important country on the continent (with about 100 million population, every third or fourth African is a Nigerian). If Israel could have a diplomatic breakthrough with Nigeria, then perhaps the ice might be broken.

Black Points in the Ledger

Dr Namoi Hazan sees in the stand the usual African explanations for the absence of relations with Israel. Such explanations as "opposition to American imperialism under Israeli guise" (in some states) or "opposition to the occupation by Israel of territory and the denial of the Palestinian right for self-determination" do not stand up. Africa, Hazan told the conference, broke formal diplomatic relations with Israel, but did not break off unofficial relations. If the countries were serious about their public pronouncements, they would have boycotted Israel.

Dr Hazan does not underestimate the seriousness with which the Africans regard the "Israel-South Africa pact," especially since 1976 (the year of the official visit of South Africa's prime minister to Israel). South Africa, more than any other issue, unifies the African countries, both moderate and radical. To them the rule of a white minority is patently racial, reflective of the colonialism of the white settlers. If Africa can speak in one voice, it is this issue it can speak against.

The opposition in Nigeria, at least in part, sees a correlation between the renewal of relations and the national priorities of Nigeria--economic development, rural development (in which Israel is considered an authority), and military and security needs (internal order and border disputes).

The ruling party in Nigeria, in which Muslim elements are the majority, opposes the renewal of realtions for the above "classical" reasons--the Israeli-Arab conflict and South Africa.

Nigeria is now in the middle of a critical election campaign. This is the first campaign conducted by a civilian rule without patronage of the generals. It is believed that the present ruling party will remain in power. But the main challenger of the present president is Chief Ubafori Aulau, a very experienced politician who is friendly to Israel.

Give Israel Something in Return

Auluau uses tactical reasons in saying that he does not support Israeli policy vis-a-vis South Africa any more than his opponents do. Dr Hazan heard during her visit in Nigeria an argument such as "what can we offer Israel, so that it may stop its relations with South Africa?" The question provides the answer: One thing would be the renewal of relations. An argument of the same kind is: We cannot influence the peace process in the Middle East as long as we boycott Israel.

The conference reflected something which is well known in Africa: the deep disappointment with the Arab role. "The Arabs have destroyed our economies, did not fulfil their economic commitments and used their aid as a political weapon. The Arabs are not loyal to Africa." This is the spirit of the complaints, but the disappointment with the Arabs per se cannot pave the way for a new Israeli involvement in the continent.

Hazan says that "Africa-Israel relations are now in their third phase, neither honeymoon or break-off. It is a period of movement, of searching and feelers. There is much economic, military and diplomatic thrust; there are more contacts, but there are things which are more important than the public diplomatic level." Hazan believes that Israel is wrong to overemphasize the diplomatic level. Pressure on Africa to fly Israeli flags in the capital cities can harm existing relations more than help them.

One might say in this regard that there is no light at the end of the tunnel, but, in effect, there is no tunnel either.

9565

CSO: 4423/152

PROBLEM OF CONTAMINATED DRINKING WATER DISCUSSED

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Jun 83 p 21

[Article by Aharon Pri'el: "They Drink Water Contaminated with Excrement Bacteria"]

[Text] Health Ministry Warns Meqorot Purification Work in Southern Golan Height Is Irregular;

Contamination Discovered in Reservoirs;

Ma'ayan Shefer in Galilee Connected to Supply System without Investigation;

Bacterial Contamination of Water in Ramat Yisahar Plant Because of Chlorination Stoppage;

Megorot Promises to Correct Situation 'Soon';

Study Designed to Prevent Purified Sewage from New Line to Negev from Penetrating Drinking Water Is Being Delayed.

These days a new waterline is being laid down for Negev. This is not merely a new line, but the beginning of a new era of using water for national consumption. Some 125 million cubic meters of purified sewage water will be passed through a huge plant for Dan sewage purification, which is located in the Rishon Leziyyon dunes, and will then water the fields of the Negev. This is the third water line, as it is called by the water people, and it will cost some \$100 million.

The Health Ministry, as the authority in charge of the quality of drinking water, has suggested conducting a special study on the possible negative effects of using purified sewage water. The study would look into preventing purified sewage water from entering drinking water system and prevent people from drinking purified water by mistake, even when the purification reaches 99 percent.

Because of the importance of the study, the Health Ministry agreed to allocate the funds needed for it; the Public Health Service of the ministry gave the

study top priority. But it has been discovered that the "agreement is stuck in the long bureaucratic corridor of the Health Ministry; so we hope no one complains to us in the future, if there should be mass poisoning," we were told by a senior official in the Ministry.

We asked the chief health engineer of the Health Ministry, Rami Halpern, but he refused to answer, and only said that before a new drinking water system is put into use it undergoes a general chemical testing of the water, and after 5 years the test is repeated. About 20 to 30 different components of poisonous materials are checked for in the water. "The truth is that such a test once every 5 years is not sufficient, and it is necessary, because of the drinking water problems in Israel, to do those general tests more often."

Megorot Company is supplying drinking water on the Golan Heights and is responsible for maintaining and operating the water system. Among other things, the company has to operate purification devices in the southern Golan Heights on a regular basis, since much of the water that reaches this area comes from the Sea of Galilee. This water is dirty and without prior treatment should not be drunk, Halpern cautions.

Lab Finds

In the middle of April of this year Yoram Teich, of the Health Bureau, Northern District, acting regional inspector for environmental engineering, sent a letter to the Galilee director of Megorot, reporting on the presence of excrement bacteria in drinking water in the south of the Golan Heights. Writes Teich: "Despite the considerable improvement in most settlements in the south of the Golan Heights, the lab finds of 12 April 1983 continue to show contaminated water in two settlements--Ramat Magshimim and Gamla, because of failure to operate the purification system." The data is as follows:

96 E.Coli bacteria from a fecal source found in 100 mg of drinking water in offices in Gamla;

60 E.Coli bacteria from a fecal source found in 100 mg of drinking water in a kindergarten in Gamla;

0 E.Coli bacteria from a fecal source in 100 mg of drinking water in offices in Ramat Magshimim;

12 E.Coli bacteria from a fecal source found in 100 mg of drinking water in yard of Ramat Magshimim.

Drinking water containing even one bacterium from a fecal source is not drinkable. As for the common E.Coli bacteria, up to 2 bacteria per 100 mg of water means the water is drinkable; 2 to 10 bacteria make the water suspect; over 10 bacteria in 100 mg water--contaminated. Here too, the picture is no better; the drinking water in Gamla's secretariat contained 96 E.Coli bacteria per 100 mg water; in Gamla's kindergarten, 82 E.Coli bacteria per 100 mg water; in Ramat Magshimim's secretariat, 24 bacteria in 100 mg water, and in the latter's yard--14 common E.Coli bacteria. This water according to regulations is contaminated and undrinkable.

A Great Deal of Diarrhea

"We cannot allow this situation to continue, risking the health of the inhabitants, who for months have had to boil water, when we can prevent it with better supervision and regular operation of the purification system," Teich writes in his letter to Megorot.

From an internal document of the Health Ministry we find out that bacterial contamination of drinking water in the south of the Golan Heights last fall caused many cases of diarrhea among adults and especially among children.

"The Ministry has received data on neglect in boiling drinking water for adults. This is a dangerous situation which can increase sickness; it is recommended that bacterial tests on water be increased," the document states. The representatives of the Golan regional council have complained, according to this document, that Megorot, as water supplier and as a company monitoring the condition of drinking water in the area, "has been negligent in dealing with the quality of drinking water."

Megorot representative Y. Alqovi said in the meeting in which the bacterial contamination of drinking water was discussed that Megorot promises to increase the monitoring of drinking water installations in the entire Golan Heights and to make all the necessary repairs. "This will ensure that drinking water will no longer be contaminated." This was said during a meeting in Qatzrin on 3 February this year. On 12 April the tests were made in which bacteria was found. The chief health engineer of the Health Ministry contacted the chief engineer of Megorot and argued that problem "is not technical or an engineering problem, but an organizational-operational problem." He demanded that Megorot take immediate steps to prevent water contamination on the Golan Heights.

In the northern Golan Heights, it turns out, drinking water is not much better than in the south. "The constant shortage of water in the north forces the residents not to be so choosy, and a constant source of water for them is Brehat Ram, where the water is more contaminated than in the Sea of Galilee," says Halpern.

The Health Ministry has recently issued new regulations in regard to water pools used as drinking water reservoirs, after it was found out that some of the contamination of drinking water originated in the pools. The regulations order pools to be covered to prevent the public from getting in, and kept closed and clean and be cleaned regularly.

Three Sources

Last month a human body was found in one of the drinking water pools supplying water to the residents of Nazerat. It turned out that the body had been in the pool for two days. Nazerat has two uncovered water pools, used as reservoirs of drinking water. The problem is yet to be solved despite the demand of the Health Ministry to "get rid of the problem which endangers the health of the population."

Health Ministry experts, as the authority in charge of drinking water quality, have recently warned Megorot of danger to public health because of drinking water, which, in their opinion, "is strictly unfit for drinking." North District health engineer A. Samsonov warned the Galilee office of the company: "We happened to find out that Megorot had decided to use the Shefer brook and that the brook was connected to the water supply systems of the Hazon and Aravah drill sites." Samsonov points out that Health Ministry experts have not yet tested the brook's water, in order to see if it is fit for drinking, and therefore have rejected the brook as a drinking water source and demanded it be disconnected from the supply system. Samsonov proposed to Megorot that it present the usual plan for using the brook water so that the ministry experts can check it out and approve the plan before execution, as required by law.

Regional supervisor of the Health Ministry in 'Afulah, Pinhas Shofel, argues in his communication with the Galilee office of Megorot that water tests conducted on 25 April and 28 April on drinking water from Ramat Yisahar's water works, which until now have supplied acceptable quality water, showed bacterial contamination in the drinking water of Kfar Meser and Tamra. "We found out that Megorot stopped operating the chlorination device without our knowledge or approval," the 'Afulah regional supervisor claims. Hence, the ministry demanded that Megorot reactivate immediately the system, "on a regular and on-going basis," in order to prevent eventually harming the public health.

The arguments of the Golan Heights representatives and the Health Ministry regarding the contamination of drinking water were addressed by Megorot spokesman, Mordekhay Yaqobobitz, as follows: "The argument about contamination drinking water is correct. Megorot will soon install chlorination devices for drinking water to overcome the problem."

Yaqobovitz explained that the contamination is caused in part by the internal water systems in the settlements, "which are not under the responsibility or control of Megorot, but the settlements themselves." The spokesman added that the settlements of the southern Golan Heights are fed by three sources: The Ramat Magshimim drill sites, the local brooks and the Sea of Galilee. Last summer was very hot, which, the spokesman explained, caused the brooks to produce inferior quality water which explains the contamination of drinking water in the southern Golan Heights. "In order to solve the problem we have ordered the necessary equipment to chlorinate the drinking water."

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CSO: 5000/4530

IMF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE MAY BE REQUIRED

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 14 Jun 83 p 1

[Article by Ze'ev Struminsky: "Experts: Israel May Need the Monetary Fund; Kaufman: It Is Not Possible to Introduce Restraint Policies in Israel"]

[Text] In coming years Israel may need the assistance of the International Monetary Fund, hence it is not wise to take the Fund's report, in which the Government's economic policy is sharply criticized, lightly. This was told to DAVAR by Israeli experts in reaction to the criticism appearing in the report of the Fund.

The experts pointed out that in coming years there may be a gap between the fiscal needs of Israel and the ability and political will of the U.S. Government to extend sufficient economic aid to Israel. This can happen if Israel's trade deficit continues to grow at a fast rate or if fuel and raw material prices in the world markets go up despite the optimism currently seen in many economic circles.

In such case Israel may experience difficulties which will force it to turn to the IMF for considerable credit. The Fund is known to predicate the granting of aid on the government's willingness to take steps of fiscal restraint after asking for aid.

The experts added that the Finance Minister's policy, which sets an unrealistic rate of exchange for the shekel, is in basic conflict with the Fund.

They stressed that in the past the Israeli currency's rate of exchange was also unrealistic to some extent, but past governments made sure to correct the situation. This time, the experts said, the present Government turned the unrealistic rate of exchange into an ideological matter, which worries the Fund.

The experts maintain that the Fund's criticism of Israel will be taken as a negative signal by the international financial community as to the credibility of Israel's economy.

The Fund's criticism should be received seriously, while keeping in mind that Israel has its own problems and special needs and that the criteria of the Fund are not the only way of testing Israel's economic strength, Deputy Finance Minister Hayim Kaufman told DAVAR.

Kaufman said that Israel has invested a great deal in its economy, security and society, and that those things should be regarded as assets which stand against the problems pointed out by the Fund. "Everyone wonders how Israel was able to destroy the Soviet missiles in Lebanon. But one should bear in mind that to embarrass the USSR and acquire technological capability which can stand up to its missiles costs money," said Kaufman.

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CSO: 4423/152

BRIEFS

REAL WAGE DECREASE PLANNED--The Israeli Government has made a commitment to the International Monetary Fund to reduce workers' real wages and will do it, although no cabinet member would openly admit it, Israel Qesar, deputy Histadrut secretary, said yesterday in speaking to the trade union forum of the Haifa Workers' Council. Qesar pointed out that the Histadrut will fight for maintaining real wages and sources of employment without undermining the society and the economy. He added that private employers want to pay for the erosion, but are afraid to upset the government, which might blame them for the failure of the finance minister's economic plan. Qesar said that industrial production has experienced a calm in recent years thanks to the good relations between employers and employees. He expressed the hope that an agreement with employers could be reached in regard to raise for erosion with steps being taken against them. [Text] [Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 14 Jun 83 p 8] 9565

DESTROYING AGRICULTURAL SURPLUSES--The market is currently flooded with summer fruit surplus and the nominal price of the produce is lower than last year. The large crops are the results of the cold and rainy winter in all parts of the country, and the overcoming of most of the factors which have harmed the crops in the past. Now that the summer has started, all the fruits have ripened at once and cannot be distributed. The Fruit Council has estimated that tens of thousands of tons of fruit--peaches, grapes and plums--will have to be destroyed, since the low prices do not offset the picking, sorting and transportation cost. During the last 2 weeks more than one thousand tons of peaches have been destroyed, and the quantity is expected to rise each week. It is estimated that some of the plum and grape harvest will also have to be destroyed. The Grape Council has reported that 14 thousand tons of grapes will be destroyed. The Fruit Council has asked the Agriculture Ministry for immediate assistance to pay farmers the price promised in the beginning of the season. The Council guarantees the price and gets paid back by the market, but because of the decline in prices it finds it difficult to pay the farmers. The Grape Council told the growers this year not to sell edible grapes to the wineries for making brandy. The wineries take each year 10 thousand tons of edible grapes, but because of the backlog in the wineries they could not absorb all the grapes this year and the grapes will have to be destroyed. [Text] [Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 19 June 83 p 17] 9565

CLEANER TIBERIAS DRINKING WATER--Meqorot General Manager Ze'ev Ashkenazi has reported that the public can now drink clean water since the water from the Sea of Galilee has been improved as a result of the building of the 'Enan Reservoir, which collects contaminated water from the Galilee kibbutzim and prevents it from reaching the Sea of Galilee. He added that this year the farmers will not have a water supply problem, since the state's water reservoirs are full due to the rainfall last winter, and there should not be a water problem if the farmers do not exceed the approved quotas. In addition, the settlements of the northern Golan Heights will have a regular water supply, since Meqorot and the Environment Protection Society have reached a compromise according to which Meqorot will use the Baniyas water for the settlements of the northern Galilee as long as the flow does not reduce the water level of the springs. The work according to Meqorot will begin soon and within a year the northern Golan Heights settlements will get their water supply.
[Text] [Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Jun 82 p 8] 9565

CSO: 5000/4530

FINAL AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL ANALYZED

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic No 172, 28-May-3 Jun 83 pp 10-13

[Article by Ahmad Ma'tuq: "More Than Truce Agreement and Less Than Peace Treaty; Lebanese Israeli Agreement Has Given Lebanon Vacation From Arab-Israeli Conflict"]

[Text] After 26 March 1979, Israel concluded on 17 May 1983 its second agreement with an Arab state, thus ousting it from the Arab-Israeli conflict. This is also the second Arab-Israeli agreement concluded under the patronage of the United States and described, despite the disappointment in the first treaty, as a step on the path to just and comprehensive peace in the area.

On Tuesday, the 17th of this month, Israeli negotiator David Kimche, Lebanese negotiator Antoine Fattal and U.S. mediator Ambassador Philip Habib met in Khaldah, south of Beirut, and signed 6 copies of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement in Arabic and French. They then went to Qiryat Shemona (al-Khalisah) in Palestine to sign amidst similar ceremonies, characterized by sedateness on the Lebanese side and rejoicing on the Israeli side, 6 more copies in English and Hebrew. Thus came to an end a fundamental phase in the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations which started in Khaldah, the same place which witnessed the signing, on 28 December 1982 and which were held alternatively in Khaldah and Qiryat Shemona.

Both the Lebanese and Israeli sides expressed, each in turn, their satisfaction with the agreement in its final form, but for contrasting reasons. The Israeli side has considered the agreement an actual peace treaty, though not called so, whereas the Lebanese side has clung to considering it a mere agreement ending the state of war between Lebanon and Israel and based on the truce agreement concluded by the two sides on 23 March 1949. According to the Lebanese AL-'AMAL, the Phalange organ, Lebanon has done no more than "take a vacation" from the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The agreement consists of an introduction, 12 articles, an annex concerning security arrangements, another annex explaining whatever is vague in the articles of the agreement and a "supplement" defining the level and type of armament in South Lebanon and a military map defining the security zone. The fact is that the contents of the agreement's introduction justify the claims of the Israeli legal experts that what has been achieved with Lebanon

is similar to a "peace treaty." The introduction to the agreement stipulates acknowledgement by both sides "of their right and duty to live peacefully within secure and recognized borders." The two sides also agree to "declare an end to the state of war between them." In the first article of the agreement, each side pledges to "respect the sovereignty, political independence and safety of the territories of the other side."

In comparison with the "peace treaty" concluded between Egypt and Israel 4 years ago, the same principles are reiterated in the two introductions and in the first article. But the Egyptian-Israeli treaty stipulates the establishment of peaceful relations between Egypt and Israel immediately upon exchange of the instruments of ratification of the treaty whereas peaceful relations between Lebanon continue to be an indefinite issue until 6 months after completion of the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. A period of 2-3 months after conclusion of the agreement has been set for the completion of this withdrawal. Again, the Lebanese-Israeli agreement differs from the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel in that this treaty stipulates the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two sides whereas the proposed peaceful relations between Lebanon and Israel deal with the movement of goods, products and persons. Even though the agreement does not define an ultimate goal and that all it demands is "negotiation with goodwill," U.S. sources have said that the Lebanese Government has pledged to the U.S. side to agree to opening the borders with Israel.

After defining the principles of the new relations between Lebanon and Israel--relations based on ending the state of war that has existed between the two sides for 35 years, on each side respecting the territorial integrity of the other side, on each side preventing the initiation of any military action from its territories against the territories and citizens of the other side and on the pledge to solve differences with peaceful means--the agreement stipulates the creation of a "joint liaison committee" comprised of an equal number of Lebanese and Israeli members, with U.S. participation, to supervise implementation of the agreement and to devote efforts to developing the mutual relations between Lebanon and Israel, including control over the movement of goods, products, persons, means of transportation and so forth. This committee is to make its decisions unanimously. If this is impossible, even with the efforts of the U.S. partner, the committee is to resort to a third party, understood by the Lebanese to mean an international organization, such as the Court of Justice in the Hague or some similar circle.

The joint liaison committee is also to supervise solving problems which cannot be solved by the security arrangements committee that is entrusted with supervising the military aspect of the agreement and in whose meetings a U.S. delegate--by necessity an officer--participates "at the request of either the two sides." AL-MAJALLAH has learned that the special reference to the presence of a U.S. delegate, as phrased, has come as a compromise to two conflicting Lebanese and Israeli positions. Whereas the Lebanese demanded that the U.S. delegate be always present in order to curtail the Israeli influence, the Israelis decided there was no need for such presence. Ultimately, it was agreed to give each side the right

to invite the U.S. delegate to attend the committee meetings. Lebanon immediately declared that it addresses an open and permanent invitation to the U.S. delegate and Draper announced that the United States accepts the permanent invitation in a permanent manner.

The joint liaison committee, headed on each side by a "prominent government official," meets alternately in Lebanon and Israel. As for the security arrangements committee, it will take two positions near Hasbayya and (Mivdon) to make sure of the arrangements and to supervise the work of joint verification committees headed by Lebanese officers, which will be given freedom of movement protection while performing their duties. These committees, stipulated not to exceed eight in number, will proceed from the two aforementioned centers controlled by the Security Arrangements Committee. These committees will operate 24 hours a day without interruption under the command of officers from the Lebanese army. The agreement does not define the number of members of each inspection committee. But it has been understood that the number of Israelis in these committees will not exceed 50 soldiers. This is the fixed number for the Israeli military presence in Lebanon. Considering that the committees' work continues 24 hours a day, then no less than 150 Israeli troops will enter Lebanon and depart from it daily to go back home upon completing their duties.

If the number of Israelis existing simultaneously in Lebanon will be 50 troops divided among 8 committees, then each committee will include nearly 6 Israelis and a similar number of Lebanese military personnel, in addition to a Lebanese officer commanding it. In view of the land, sea and air facilities provided for the committee's movement and the weapons and equipment with which it will be supplied, the committee can be considered a joint military patrol empowered to defend itself in case it is attacked. But, in principle, the committee will not engage in military action, considering that maintaining security in the security zone is the responsibility of the Lebanese army in the area.

The agreement defines the said security zone between two lines: One beginning at a point above al-Awwali River and twisting northeast to include a number of hills and strategic areas and the second line extending all along the international borders between Lebanon and Palestine. Al-Baruk area, whose peaks overlook the Syrian, Jordanian, Turkish and Iraqi territories, has been excluded from the security zone. But in terms of the level of armament and equipment, this area has been subjected to the same arrangements that apply to the security zone.

Sa'd Haddad's Forces

The agreement divides the security zone into two sectors, one extending from the borders of the northern area up to al-Zahrani River course in the south and the second extending over the other part of the zone which is closer to the borders. A brigade of the Lebanese army, with no more than 4,341 officers and soldiers, is to be deployed in each sector. The Israeli side makes it conditional that the brigade in the sector adjacent to its borders be a regional brigade, meaning that all the elements of this brigade come from among the inhabitants of the security zone, and

that this brigade include all the elements of the Free Lebanon army which was formed by dissident Maj Sa'd Haddad with the help of Israel. The elements of the other brigade are to be brought from all parts of Lebanon. The Lebanese army is to supervise security in the zone but it is not to maintain this security by itself and is to be assisted by Lebanese gendarmerie and police forces and by al-Ansar [partisan] forces that are controlled by the army. The Civil Guard, as well as armed elements whose identity has not been identified and who have been understood to be comprised of partisan forces loyal to the regime, are to join these forces.

Al-Ansar is a para-military organization formed by the Lebanese army on the eve of the 1975-76 civil war of elements loyal to the regime that were given arms and salaries to support the army in its confrontations against the Palestinian military presence and the illegal armed Lebanese presence. But the experiment failed shortly after the upheaval to which the army was exposed during the civil war and which led to the splintering of the army. But no decision was issued to dissolve this organization. The reference in the Israeli-Lebanese agreement is the first indication of the Lebanese regime's plan to revive this organization. As for the Civil Guard, it is a similar organization formed by Sa'd Haddad to support his private army.

Thus, the entire military establishment founded by Sa'd Haddad with full Israeli support has been attached to the Lebanese military establishment by an agreement whose violation will constitute a return to the state of war between Israel and Lebanon. As for Sa'd Haddad, he is not mentioned by name in the agreement. But it has been agreed verbally between the United States and Lebanon that he will be the regional brigade's deputy commander in charge of the intelligence and communications branch. It has been learned that this agreement will be confirmed in a U.S. message to Lebanon--a message which will be considered as binding as any of the agreement's provisions but which will not be published.

In addition to defining the number of Lebanese officers and troops in the security zone, the agreement determines the level of Lebanese armament. There will be no antiaircraft weapons in the zone, no radars to detect [Israeli] air force movement and no field guns with a caliber of more than 40 millimeters so that they may not have a range beyond the Lebanese-Israeli borders. Flights of any kind over the security zone are forbidden without prior notification to Israel. The establishment of any plant to manufacture weapons and explosives of types not permitted in the zone is also forbidden. Only training activities for military conscripts are excluded [from the ban]. It is understood from the statements of the Lebanese officials that an understanding has been reached with Israel that the number of trainees will not exceed one brigade. These officials consider this point a gain achieved by Lebanon in comparison to what the truce agreement gave Lebanon 34 years ago. Whereas the previous [truce] agreement set the number of Lebanese officers and troops in the Lebanese buffer zone at 1,500 strong, the new agreement permits the presence of 12,000 Lebanese officers and troops and an unlimited number of policemen, gendarmerie, al-Ansar and armed elements.

Comparing the 17 May [1983] agreement with the truce agreement in order to say that what has happened this month is no more than refloating the 23 March 1949 agreement is countered by comparing the new agreement with the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. It is true, as the Lebanese officials point out, that the truce agreement principles stipulate that force shall not be used and that no acts of aggression shall be carried out by regular or irregular forces. These principles also stipulate the formation of a Joint Lebanese-Israeli Truce Committee, headed by a representative of the United Nations, which holds its meetings in Lebanon and Israel alternately and observes implementing the security measures within the framework of the agreement. However, it is also true that the truce agreement does not end the state of war, even though it recommends avoiding the use of force to settle disputes. This agreement also states that "no principle in this agreement shall under any conditions be in conflict with the rights, claims and positions of any of the two sides concerned with the final peaceful settlement of the Palestinian problem, considering that this agreement has been dictated by military considerations solely." On the other hand, the establishment of peaceful relations with Israel is in conflict with Lebanon's Arab commitments--commitments to which Lebanon continues to declare its adherence.

Whereas the entire security zone falls within the Lebanese territories, the truce agreement provides for the establishment of two military zones, one in South Lebanon and the other in North Israel. The first zone extends along al-Qasimiyah-Lower al-Nabatiyah-Hasbayya line, whereas the second extends along the Nahariya-Tarshiha (later Ma'alot)-al-Jash-Marus line. The Lebanese negotiator did actually project the idea of establishing an analogous security zone in North Israel but the Israeli negotiator rejected the idea decisively, notifying the Lebanese negotiator that Israel won the war and is, therefore, the side that dictates the terms. In the course of his presentation of the agreement to the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies on the eve of concluding the agreement, Dr Elie Salim, the minister of foreign affairs, admitted and stressed that Lebanon had underlined this demand in order to establish a balance in the arrangements but could not, in the agreement, get more than the right to dispatch a joint inspection committee to ascertain that there aren't on the Lebanese borders Israeli military concentrations threatening Lebanon's security. Referring to this point, the agreement states that "when requested to (...), the security arrangements committee shall assign a joint inspection committee to examine the border security arrangements taken on the Israeli side of the borders in compliance with article 4 of this agreement."

The truce agreement provides for the release of regular army prisoners from irregular forces by both sides whereas the new agreement makes no reference to the hundreds of Lebanese prisoners at Ansar Camp and other camps. Whereas the truce agreement permits communication between Israeli and Lebanese military personnel through a U.N. representative, the new agreement lays down the bases for firm relations between the Lebanese and Israeli armies. The agreement provides for direct radio and telephone communications between the military commanders concerned and their chiefs of staff in the immediate border area. It also provides for face-to-face meetings. It further calls for "constant contacts" between the southern command of the Lebanese naval forces and the Israeli naval forces to exchange information concerning suspected naval vessels.

These provisions constitute new restrictions on the Lebanese army, in addition to the other restrictions concerning the level of armament in the security zone. There is another imposed on a Lebanese officer commanding an inspection committee, namely that such an officer has to "take into consideration the characteristic of joint action while performing the inspection tasks." But the stiffest restriction is the one imposed on the level of armament outside the security zone. Even here, Lebanon is prohibited from possessing antiaircraft weapons, except for shoulder-carried short and medium-range missiles. Lebanon is also prohibited from owning any radars with a range beyond the Israeli-Lebanese borders. Lebanon will have to abide by these commitments for 3 years after which the security arrangements for the area outside the security zone can be reconsidered. The arrangements within the security zone are permanent, except for the inspection committees. Either side is entitled to demand the abolition of these committees after 2 years, provided that this is done 90 days after the request is made and that alternative arrangements be made.

Armament Limitations

Thus, all of Lebanon is turned into a zone with limited armament and the task of its army is transformed from defending the borders to pursuing groups and individuals posing an alleged danger to Israel's security. Lebanon is also turned into territory banned to the Arab armies, in accordance with article 6 which prohibits Lebanon from permitting the "malicious" passage by air, land or sea of any forces, weapons or equipment belonging to hostile forces. As for definition of the hostile forces, they are the forces of those states that have no diplomatic relations with the two-sides--to be more specific, with Israel.

But the agreement does not provide Lebanon with a guarantee against Israel's violation of the integrity of Lebanon's territories and of its sovereignty over these territories. Israel does not exclude the possibility of such violation in the future and this is why it asked the United States to approve "it's right" to do so and was given an "agreement memorandum" which was signed in Washington, on the same day Israel and Lebanon signed their agreement, by Secretary of State George Shultz and by Binyamin Metanyahu, the Israeli charge d'affaires. A copy of this memorandum was signed in Jerusalem by Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli minister of foreign affairs, and by U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis.

According to what the NEW YORK TIMES has reported, the secret Israeli-U.S. agreement supports Israel's right to invade Lebanon anew if it turns into a "base of terrorism." The well-informed paper says that the secret agreement came as a result of the mediation efforts exerted by Shultz in the Middle East. At the request of Israel, there are emergency plans in case the Lebanese Government displays inability to guarantee security South Lebanon despite the detailed security arrangements provided for in the Lebanese-Israeli agreement. The paper adds that the secret agreement, which also stipulates that the agreement is final and may not be amended to satisfy Syria, had to be drawn up following pressure from Begin's government to make the United States play a bigger role before

Israel would approve the agreement. According to the information of the same paper, Lebanon had advance knowledge of this secret agreement but asked that the U.S. and Israeli sides keep it confidential in order to avoid embarrassing it before Lebanese and Arab public opinion.

The demand that the United States play a bigger role was both an Israeli and a Lebanese demand. To put it in the words of the Lebanese minister of foreign affairs, "had it not been for the U.S. intervention, we would not have been able to reach an agreement leading to full Israeli evacuation without the conclusion of a peace treaty, without establishing normal relations and without a continued and concerted Israeli military presence in the south." At a poke from Syria's spear, which opposes the agreement and threatens to foil it, Salim has said: "Every Arab state which fought has cooperated with the United States for a disengagement [of forces] or to secure a partial or total withdrawal."

The fact is that the U.S. role in achieving the Lebanese-Israeli agreement has been a decisive role. From the outset, U.S. intervention has been Lebanon's interest on the subject of not concluding a peace treaty with Israel--a treaty on which Israel had insisted before the negotiations and throughout nearly 2 months of the negotiations. Israel had also insisted on establishing military bases inside Lebanon without objecting in return to Syria establishing similar bases in al-Biqa' and the north. But the U.S. mediator settled the argument by underlining the need for the Israeli withdrawal within the framework of achieving the withdrawal of the various non-Lebanese military sides.

According to the information of AL-MAJALLAH, the Lebanese and Israeli sides had agreed, before Shultz' arrival in the area, to push the negotiations toward their desired conclusion on the basis of 4 fundamental principles: First, ending the state of war; second, mutual observation of sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and the right to live peacefully within secure and recognized borders; third, the need for withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon; and, fourth, the need not to permit the use of the territories of either side for attacks against the territories of the other side. However, differences persisted on the details and on how to implement these principles on the spot.

Within the framework of the security agreement, there has been an understanding on the presence of a "security zone" for the Israelis in South Lebanon--a zone forming a buffer protecting Israeli cities and villages in North Palestine from hostile military operations or artillery shelling. But the question continued to be: Who is to safeguard security in this zone?

From the outset, Israel excluded the UN forces operating in South Lebanon and again accused them of incompetence and failure and even expressed support for ending their mandate for any security action in South Lebanon. Israel even went further, accusing the international forces of forming a screen behind which the Palestinian fighters hide in their daring operations against the Israeli occupation. This accusation has also been

made against the multi-national forces. The operation which destroyed the U.S. embassy in Beirut last month has not encouraged the Americans to fill the security void in South Lebanon after the rise of pro-Israeli voices in the Congress demanding the recall of U.S. troops from Lebanon so that the Vietnam experience may not be repeated. There remained the Lebanese army whose muscles the Lebanese tried repeatedly to display in Beirut and the suburbs to prove this army's effectiveness. But the Israelis have not been dazzled by its performance and the latest things they have circulated about this army is that it has not been able to prevent the return of 500 Palestinian fedayeen to West Beirut. When the Lebanese side insisted that its army take full charge of the security tasks in the south, the Israelis demanded that the responsibility be entrusted to Sa'd Haddad's army, provided that Israeli military advisers assist him. To facilitate this, the Israelis proposed that Haddad, along with all the elements of his forces, be reinstated in the army, so that whatever he does will be in the name of the legitimate army.

The Lebanese side had rejected this proposal but then agreed after U.S. pressure exerted by Philip Habib to reinstate Haddad in the army and to appoint him deputy commander in the south in charge of the intelligence and communications branch. The Israelis continued to insist on taking part in safeguarding security through joint patrols and roadblocks and the Lebanese continued to reject this demand until Shultz arrived at the end of last month and presented his alternative proposals which ultimately gained the approval of the Lebanese and Israeli sides.

What Happened Before Agreement?

AL-MAJALLAH's exclusive information indicates that Shultz held concerted meetings with the Lebanese side to make it accept watered-down proposals satisfactory to the Israelis. Shultz was in a race with time. After hearing the positions of both sides, he began to draft his alternative proposals that observe some reservations here and there, thus making some of the Lebanese participants feel that Washington wanted to commit Lebanon under the canopy of Lebanese-U.S. friendship to what Israel had not been able to achieve in the negotiations. This was expressed by Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan who, according to the assertions of official Lebanese sources, threatened on three occasions to withdraw from the meetings between the Lebanese and U.S. sides. The last such threat came on the morning on which the draft agreement was completed when al-Wazzan told Shultz through an interpreter: "We, the Arabs, prefer the camel as a means of transportation but we do not burden it beyond its capacity so that it may not falter or cave in under its burden. Therefore, if the United States wants us to go a long way with it, as we think it does, then it behooves it to lighten our burden." The Americans felt that this position could lead to the collapse of the negotiations and to the failure of Shultz' mission and thus organized a private meeting between the two men in which Shultz answered al-Wazzan's words with a similar address, telling him that some Lebanese, as well as some Israelis, will not approve the agreement but that the agreement constitutes the only way to secure the military withdrawals from Lebanon. Al-Wazzan then changed his opinion and supported the agreement in its final U.S. form.

Shultz has given the Lebanese "two gifts" in return for the agreement: The first is stipulated in the agreement and allows Lebanon to request extension of the stay of the UN forces in the south to help the Lebanese army maintain security in the [Palestinian refugee] camps and the second is recorded in a U.S. message to Lebanon supporting a Lebanese plan to expand the jurisdiction of the multi-national forces to that these forces may be deployed along all the main highways in Lebanon, without exception.

In return, Shultz also gave the Israelis "two gifts:" One consisting of the "agreement memorandum" which gives Israel the right to invade Lebanon anew "in self-defense" and the other consisting of a U.S. promise that the U.S. Green Berets battalion which gained reputation during the Vietnam war will train two Lebanese army groups on the methods of confronting infiltration by armed elements.

But the "biggest gift" which the Israelis got from the United States has been the improvement in U.S.-Israeli relations which reached their lowest point recently. The first fruit of this improvement in the relations has been the Congress's decision to raise U.S. aid to Israel for next year by \$200 million over the sum originally proposed by President Reagan and to cancel an Israeli debt to the United States valued at \$100 million "because of Israel's economic conditions."

The need for the presence of good relations with the United States is dictated by the tension in the area which raises the likelihood of the outbreak of a war between Syria and Israel--a war that may not stop at narrow regional borders. It is the opinion of Moshe Arens, the Israeli minister of defense, that settling U.S.-Israeli relations is a "positive development, regardless of whether the agreement passes or not. If we are forced into a conflict with Syria, then it is better for the conflict to occur with U.S. understanding."

It is to be noted that Arens was Israel's ambassador to the United States before he was summoned to fill the post of minister of defense which became vacant when Sharon resigned at the recommendation of the Kahan report on the Sabra and Shatilla camps massacres. The post of Israel's ambassador in Washington is still vacant. The Israeli Embassy in Washington became more vacant on the occasion of Shultz' visit to the area because Benjamin Methanyahu, the charge d'affaires, has been summoned to attend the meetings with the U.S. secretary of state. Menachem Meron, the military attache, has been transferred from Washington to take over the post of general director of the Israeli Ministry of Defense. Observers believe that it is a significant development when officers of the Israeli Embassy in Washington are turned into officers of the Israeli Ministry of Defense at this stage of the development of the relations between Israel and the United States. It is also significant that Me'ir Rosen, the ambassador designate to Washington, is the former legal adviser to the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Rosen attended the Camp David meetings in 1978 and the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations in this capacity.

There is no doubt that Rosen's first task will be to convince Washington of Israel's interpretations of the disputed provisions of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement. It is to be noted that the new official spokesman of the Israeli Embassy in Washington is Victor Har'el who was Rosen's assistant at the legal department of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The agreement has been concluded but its implementation by Israel depends on Syria's and the PLO's agreement to withdraw their forces from the north and al-Biqa'. So far, Syria has declared its rejection of the agreement and its refusal to meet with the Lebanese ministerial committee formed to negotiate with the Syrians. Damascus has also declared that it will not receive Philip Habib, the U.S. envoy, during his new tour. The PLO supports Syria in this position.

Some optimistic Lebanese officials believe that Syria's position is tactical and that it will soon approve the agreement in return for gains it will make. President Amin al-Jumayyil himself believes that dispatching Shultz instead of Habib may change Syria's position toward U.S. policy. President Reagan also believes that Syria will ultimately agree if the Arabs ask it to fulfill what it had previously promised, namely to withdraw its forces as long as the Israeli forces withdraw from Lebanon. But neither is President Reagan willing to give Syria a role in solving the Lebanese crisis and the Middle East crisis nor is Lebanon capable of giving Syria security guarantees that do not violate the Lebanese-Israeli agreement. Some pessimists believe that if the Americans continue to ask the Russians and the Syrians to offer free services for the cause of peace in the area, as they are now doing, then the Russians and the Syrians may be compelled to prove the importance of their role in the peace by igniting the fire of war.

8494

CSO: 4404/417

NEW PHALANGIST LEADERSHIP STRIVES FOR LEGALITY

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic No 3, 30 April 83 pp 12, 13

[Article by Joseph Qasifi: "In the Light of the Experiences of the War and After the Disappearance of Shaykh Bashir, a New Phalangist Leadership Puts the Party on the Road of Legality"]

[Text] The Lebanese Phalangist Party is considered one of the oldest Arab parties. It is perhaps the only party which, since its founding in 1936, still has a single head, the founder of the party himself, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil. This party has played an important role on the Arab level via its powerful influence on all events in Lebanon and so on the various sides that were active on Lebanon's soil or in its policy especially after the events of 1975 and the election of the two sons of the party's president, the shaykhs Bashir and Amin, as president of the country in the Autumn of 1982.

Lebanon is ruled today by an old Phalangist, and this during the most important phase through which this country has passed since independence. Everything happening in the Lebanese arena now will be reflected in the Arab arena. In this historic period, the Arabs must of necessity try to know everything about Lebanon, and so about the Phalangist Party, which presently is confronting a stage in which its activities must be re-evaluated in the light of the experiences of the war and of what came before and after. Our comrade in Beirut, Joseph Qasifi, wrote what follows on this re-evaluation:

When the 2-year war broke out on 13 April 1975, no one in the heart of the leadership of the Lebanese Phalangist Party knew that the party would encounter widespread and rapid growth which the party's cadres would not be able to contain, or, indeed, that the party's organization had arrived at a stage where it could not handle the glut produced by the movement of affiliation to the party. This led to an imbalance between party control and membership which allowed many elements to enter who were not integrated into the ranks and were at odds with the original nature of the party's true work and the associated spirit of discipline and ethical values, a fact that reflects on the behavior of the two parties in the areas of military and political work.

The head of the Phalange, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil, was aware of this situation and used to use public and private party occasions to pronounce that new organizational and reformist steps had to be taken which would embrace all the tendencies and apparatus of the party, so that it would be consistent with the new conditions brought forth by events. This conviction was deepened by a big trend toward flight witnessed by the party, which would have reached the stage of total chaos in the years 1975, 1976, 1978 and 1979, had not the party's leadership been forced to use harshness with those who were behind this movement. In addition, the 7 July 1980 movement had a positive influence on the behavior of those who had recently joined the Phalangist Party, for they became more disciplined by themselves, fearing that they might be punished in a way which usually assumes a repressive character.

Talk about organization constantly was at odds with obstacles external to the will of the Phalangist leadership, since the flow of events and the speed with which they happened to the Lebanese arena, as well as the entry into the first presidential campaign exhausted the financial, military, administrative, political and informational efforts of the party's organizations. Therefore, the party was waiting for the appropriate moment for a review of its organizational situation, with the goal of establishing a new framework which would enable it to match the development which had taken place in its apparatus in both human and political terms. In the atmosphere of stability created by the Greater Beirut project, the party found the right opportunity to explore these topics in a fundamental fashion. For this purpose, it formed a board composed of the party's vice-president, Dr Eli Karami, its secretary general, lawyer Joseph Sa'adah, Deputy George Sa'adah, the editor-in-chief of the newspaper AL-'AMAL, which speaks for the party, Comrade Joseph Abu Khalil, and the commander of the Lebanese Forces, Engineer Fadi Afram, to supervise a group of organizational studies for the party in a variety of fields: political, security, cultural, social, financial, etc. These studies are to be prepared by a group of top specialists in the party working far from the lights in complete silence and secrecy. This group includes lawyers, doctors, engineers, historians, experts, economists, businessmen and workers. It has the right to ask for the opinions of experts from outside the party on certain topics.

The studies referred to require not a little time. Lest things stay as they were, the Phalangist leadership took precautionary measures while the studies are being prepared and submitted to the board formed by the party's political office to abstract the developmental suggestions.

One of these suggestions is that the movement of membership into the party be stopped, in addition to cancellation of the party membership card currently used and the renewal of these cards according to renewed criteria, leading to a "weeding" out of those elements whose remaining in the party is of no use or could lead to the Phalange being harmed in the course of its public work in the various political and social fields.

Among the measures which the Phalange leadership might take is the replacement of some leadership elements which occupy sensitive administrative posts in the party's apparatus, beginning with public security and progressing to less important departments. The new appointments which will include the principal departments of the party will be in the main youthful elements which have gained prominence in party work since the second half of the 1960's or the start of the 1970's. They are considered experienced elements because they are marked by the kind of disciplined, responsible, virtuous service to the Phalange which has been observed in the party since its founding in 1936. At the same time, they are considered open, flexible, capable of taking in the exigencies of development and modernization, and receptive to constructive, serious dialogue.

But this does not mean that this replacement activity will encompass the Phalangist political office, because its members are elected, and their membership continues or lapses on the basis of elections to the office held every 2 years according to the party's internal system.

The party board which supervises organization is in constant contact with the president of the republic Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil in order to keep him informed of the measures it is taking in the area of the "legality" of the party's work, in accordance with what the interest of legal authority in Lebanon dictates in order to be able to play its role.

In this context, the political office of the Phalangist Party issued a decision to stop the party's unauthorized magazines: AL-'UNWAN, which is published by the Phalangist council in the province of al-Matin al-Shamali, and AL-MASIRA, which is published by the fifth department in the Phalangist security council, in addition to AL-WA'D, which is published by the Phalangist council in the province of Kasrawan-al-Futuh. The issuing of this decision was speeded up by a violent article which was published by AL-WA'D in its second-to-the-last issue, entitled "Unintelligent Talk by Shaykh 'Aql," as a reply to what Shaykh Muhammad Abu Shaqra said in an interview with him done by a Lebanese magazine. This helped to stimulate the resentment of high officials who thought that the language of the article was inflammatory and did not tend to serve the efforts of the government to create harmony and concord in the mountains.

These reforms will be decided upon at the general conference of the Phalangist Party which will be held in September of this year, after a hiatus lasting 8 years, due to the events which the country passed through. The conference will also set up a new framework for the party's activity in all areas. It is known that a committee has been formed to prepare for the conference.

The conference will set up a temporary executive committee which will take over the application of all the measures decided upon according to a timetable not to exceed six months in length. The new identify cards will be distributed beginning in 1984. The party will begin to make use of

computers to further the mechanization of the work of its departments and to create a unified information system linking these departments. These precautionary measures are being taken out of a sense of fear of that feverish enthusiasm which overtakes opportunists and arrivistes who join a party when it attains power.

In addition to that, the Phalangist Party has, since 1967, been subjecting new members to a preparatory school under the supervision of Antoine Nijm, who is known as Amin Naji, author of "The Philosophy of the Phalangist Doctrine," and the late Joseph Shadir, vice-president of the party, as well as a group of party intellectuals and cadres. This school would introduce those who wished to join the Phalange to the fundamentals of party work, and explain to them the main points of the Phalange's doctrinal philosophy, as well as the party's internal system, the history of the Phalange, and the history of Lebanon as seen by the party, in addition to the educational and economic policy with which the Phalange was infused and its relationships on both the international and Arab levels. The work of this school ended with the outbreak of the war and the accumulation of events.

However, organizational interests are the overriding work of the Phalange leadership and embody the desire of Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil, who repeats these days: "It is one of our prime duties at this stage to give the fatherland a stainless and unburdened party. We have no excuse for not doing today, instead of tomorrow, the things that will insure that the party has its internal strength."

12224

CSO: 4404/440

INFORMATION MINISTER RETURNS FROM SECURITY COUNCIL MEET

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 8 Jun 83 pp 1, 8

[Text] Information Minister Syed Najmuddin Hashim returned home on Tuesday after attending the special Security Council debate on Namibia at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

Talking to BSS on return, the Minister who led Bangladesh delegation at the debate said he was "more hopeful than before about the decolonisation' of the last bit in African continent. He said that all through the debate the Bangladesh delegation had played a very active role in promoting further the cause of Namibia.

Mr Hashim said that Security Council debate convened in response to a request by the seventh Non-aligned summit to consider further action for implementation of the plan for Namibia's independence was participated by 20 ministers and 60 other heads of delegations. He said that in the face of overwhelming world opinion there has been changes in the attitude of those who had been supporting the racist regime of South Africa against Namibian independence.

Mr Hashim said that the Security Council had decided to mandate the Secretary General of the United Nations to contact both parties on the Namibian question with a view to securing implementation of the Council resolution of 1978. The Secretary General was expected to accomplish his task by September this year.

The Security Council in a resolution on May 30 last, called upon South Africa to make a firm commitment on its readiness to comply with the decisions of the Council for Namibian independence. It condemned South Africa's continued illegal occupation of Namibia in flagrant violation of the UN General Assembly resolution and Security Council decisions.

During his stay in New York the Information Minister had meetings with Ministers and heads of delegations from different countries attending the debate on Namibia including Foreign Ministers of India Jamaica Indonesia Cuba and Sierra Leone. He also met separately with President of the U N. Council on Namibia Mr. Paul Lusaka and President of SWA PO Mr Sam Najoma.

In his meeting with the UN Secretary General Mr. Javier Perea de Cuellar the Bangladesh Minister discussed the current situation in Southern Africa and exchanged views with him.

CSO: 4600/1289

INFORMATION MINISTER ADDRESSES UN MEET ON NAMIBIA

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 30 May 83 pp 5, 6

[Address to Security Council by Syed Najmuddin Hashim, Minister for Information, 25 May 83]

[Excerpt]

I wish, first of all, to thank you and the other members of the council for giving my delegation the opportunity to participate in this important debate, affording us the opportunity to voice the steadfast support of the government and people of Bangladesh to the heroic struggle of the people of Namibia for freedom and independence. May I also congratulate you Mr President on behalf of the Bangladesh delegation as well as on my own behalf, on your assumption of the Presidency of this august body for the month of May. We are confident that under the able and proven leadership of such a distinguished representative of the Non-Aligned country and of such an outstanding son of Africa, the council deliberations will achieve fruitful and constructive results.

The Security Council, after a period of nearly two years, is meeting again to discuss the situation in Namibia at the joint initiative of the members of the movement of Non-Aligned Countries and of the African Group. The Non-Aligned movement, representing more than two thirds of the world community, through its Seventh Summit Meeting in New Delhi in March, 1983 has once again unequivocally expressed itself in favour of the immediate implementation

of the council Resolution 435 of 1978. The ground for a successful resolution of the problem has been laid at the recently concluded international conference in support of the Namibian people for independence, held in Paris in April, 1983.

We have thus travelled to join in this historic meeting in New York by way of the conferences in Delhi and Paris. We must therefore, take due note of the outcome of the two previous meetings in our present quest. In Delhi, the Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned countries had called for the present meeting of the Security Council 'In order to consider further action on the implementation of its plan for Namibia's independence thereby assuming its primary responsibility for implementation of Security Council Resolution 435(1978).

It is because the Non-Aligned movement is concerned at the lack of progress in implementing that resolution which should have led Namibia out of bondage into freedom that it called for the United Nations to assume direct and full responsibility in regard to every step to be taken with regard to ensuring the decolonisation of Namibia. We are in agreement with the distinguished President of the UN Council for Namibia that the

Security Council should address itself to this specific goal of bringing the talks on Namibia back to the United Nations framework.

Equally are we convinced by the Lucid Report of the untiring UN Secretary General as contained in Document S/15776 dated 19 May, 1983. In that report he says that since the adoption of the Security Council Resolution five years ago, the political situation in the region has deteriorated. He has reported 'other ominous developments, including acts of destabilization, which add to the political tension in the area and impair the fragile economies of the countries of the region'. We agree with our distinguished Secretary-General that 'the settlement of the Namibian question is of overriding importance for the future peace and prosperity of the entire region' and that he regards the independence of Namibia as the essential and primary issue, which we must now face up to without further delay'. We can no longer afford to listen to aesopian fables of alleged progress in implementation of UN decisions being made through efforts undertaken outside the UN framework.

Bangladesh believes that the independence of Namibia can and must be achieved in accordance with the principles embodied in UN Resolutions, particularly Security Council Resolutions 385 of 1976 and 435 of 1978. We are convinced that the Security Council Resolutions constitute the only viable basis for peaceful transition of the territory, from colonial subjugation to independence. We cannot, therefore, accept any formula outside the framework of the UN. We wish to reiterate that the UN Resolutions, particularly the Security Council Resolutions be implemented in full without any modification whatsoever. We reject all attempts to link the independence of Namibia to extraneous issues. This is so fundamental a right that it cannot be pre-

dicted to any other issue whatsoever.

In his statement to the Seventh Non-Aligned Summit Conference, the head of our Government, His Excellency Lieutenant General H M Ershad stated and I quote,

"The persistent presence of colonialism and racism in Southern Africa is an outrage to humanity. It continues to pose a dangerous threat to peace and security in the region. Bangladesh is irrevocably committed to the cause of the oppressed people of Namibia and South Africa. We pledge our unstinted support in their legitimate struggle for freedom, liberty and human dignity. We are fully convinced that their efforts will ultimately triumph".

We cannot let cruelty and injustice go unchallenged. We cannot turn a blind eye to the endless ordeals of the Namibian. The cause of peace is certainly not served by the undefensible and mounting crimes of Pretoria, the latest example of which is the South African attack on the Mozambican Capital. South Africa's usual objective in such heinous actions appears to have been achieved because reports published in the New York Times say two women, a child and a factory worker were killed by aerial rockets and machine gun fire.

The policies of the South African Government pose a grave challenge not only to the peace and security of Namibia, but for the region, the continent and for the world at large.

It is equally an affront to the International Community that the majority of the people of Namibia continue to suffer domination, racial discrimination and repression. The litany of South African crimes are long and unending, that a region of terror exists, has been confirmed time and again by several fact finding missions. One such report entitled 'Namibia — A Nation Wronged', published in February 1982 by representatives

of the British Council of Churches who had visited the territory in November 1981, confirmed that South African forces stationed in northern Namibia were terrorising the local population. The report, inter alia, referred to a practice commonly resorted to by the South African security forces to tie the bodies of the alleged terrorists they had killed behind their vehicles and drag them through the villages. The bodies were exhibited to the parents of the dead, to villagers and even to young children in schools. The organisers of such gruesome spectacles, however, get away scot free since under the law, Civil servants, member of the Police and the army are identified against any action taken in 'good faith' in the operational area.

Discriminatory laws and practices also govern education, housing, health, employment and all other aspects of the daily life of the Namibians. According to 1982 study of the Africa Fund in New York, the life expectancy for Namibian whites is from 68 to 72 years as compared to between 42 to 52 for the blacks. Similarly the infant mortality rate is 145 per thousand for the blacks compared to 21.6 for the whites. It was also said that out of 152 doctors in Namibia, 80 per cent practised in the urban areas where the majority of the whites live, compared to only 20 per cent doctors in the rural areas where half of the total population lived.

At the hearings on Namibian uranium held by the UN Council for Namibia in July 1980 and published recently experts from the USA UK and France described the dangerous effects on health and environment of the mining and processing of uranium. Great concern was expressed over

the unusually limited and racially discriminatory health care given at Rossing Mines. Enormous piles of ground-up ORE which are dangerously radio-active are being left unattended, which could remain a threat to the environment for 100,000 years.

In addressing ourselves to the question, under consideration my delegation would like to underscore one fundamental premise that independence in Namibia can and must be achieved in accordance with the principles embodied in the resolution of the United Nations, particularly the Security Council Resolutions 385 (1976) and 435 (1978). The HEART of the Namibian problem, as we all know, is remarkable in its simplicity: A people deprived of their right to national independence and self-determination and a territory occupied by brutal military force. Far from abiding by the international opinion as expressed in numerous UN Resolutions, South Africa has progressively undertaken steps designed to destroy the territorial integrity of Namibia. It has occupied Walvis Bay which is an integral part of Namibia. The logical extension of this policy has been the systematic fragmentation of the territory along ethnic and racial lines exemplified by the system of Bantustanization. The holding of mock elections leading to the formation of a so-called National Assembly has been declared null and void by the Security Council.

The racist regime has made massive deployment of its armed forces to police the territory and rule the people through terror and repression. These troops are not only attempting to suppress the struggle for liberation but have also extended their acts of aggression into the neighbouring countries and are thereby threatening international peace and security.

EDITORIAL PROTESTS GANDHI REMARKS ON FARAKKA

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 28 May 83 p 5

[Editorial]

[Text]

The Farakka is becoming more and more fatal to our existence. - We received only 25,771 cusecs of water at the beginning of April this year. The flow of water in the Ganges is still very low.

The Bangladesh government sent a strong note of protest in this regard to its Indian counterpart. Indian Prime Minister Mrs. Gandhi gave a reply indirectly in an interview with the Arab News, a leading daily in the Arab world. She said Calcutta will be ruined if Bangladesh is given the amount of water she demands. Lt. General Ershad reacted very logically to this reply—"We are also human beings. All people should be treated as equal from the stand-point of humanity. The Padma is our river. How can the people of this country be deprived of their due share of water?" The Indian government expressed its surprise at the reaction of Lt. General Ershad. And a spokesman of the Indian government said India is fulfilling all its commitments regarding the sharing of Ganges waters in accordance with the agreement signed in October last year.

The agreement memorandum may throw some light on the whole matter. The flow of water at Farakka should be 59,000 cusecs from April 1 to 10 in accordance with the account of water distribution from January 1 to May 31, as given in the memorandum. And out of 59,000 cusecs, India will get 24,000, and Bangladesh 35,000. The memorandum also says that both the governments

will hold emergency meetings if the water flow becomes very low and will make joint efforts to minimize the extent of damage.

We are somewhat puzzled by Mrs Gandhi's reference to the problems of saving Calcutta as a port. Experts in the first place do not agree that flushing alone can keep Calcutta. Then there is the fact that Calcutta and West Bengal is getting less water more due to diversion of Ganges water by India to irrigation works in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar then because of the water that goes to sea via Bangladesh in volumes agreed between our two countries. The reintroduction of an old and by now defaced agreement, specially when Farakka has already set a process of desertification in Bangladesh, is just not the thing one expects to come from a statesman of Mrs. Gandhi's stature.

When India insists that she is fulfilling its commitments regarding the sharing of Ganges water in accordance with the October '81 agreement and our records tell us that, for the current month, we have been receiving considerably less than what is in the agreement—the only course left is to embark on a joint probe to find out where things have gone wrong.

No upper riparian country can unilaterally divert the water flow without caring for its effects on concerned countries. This is a dictate of international convention and understanding. And this should be respected in the interest of fostering good neighbourliness. By duly handing over the Indian enclaves and by responding with understanding to the Indian need for water and land transit facilities through Bangladesh, we have demonstrated our sincerity as good neighbours in a manner not matched so far by India. If this Farakka thing gets clumsy all the time and doesn't show a sign of working up soon, the prospects of good neighbourliness will no doubt be vitiated.

For Bangladesh Farakka has set off a desperate human situation. And no one in the international polity knows it better than India does. Wholesale aridisation of a country can-

not be the price for another being able to irrigate some more hectares. The current agreement implicitly recognises all this. From this agreement we can proceed only in one way—to augmentation, and not decrease. Rather than requiring to our old positions, the tenure of the agreement should better be utilised in breaking fresh grounds in the matter.

CSO: 4600/1275

EFFORTS TO WOO FOREIGN CAPITAL HAVE DISAPPOINTING RESULTS

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 21 May 83 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Close on the heels of the six million dollar Industrial Promotion and Investment Company (IPDC) of Bangladesh, the new sixty million dollar Saudi-Bangladesh Joint Investment Company (SBJIC) goes operational soon to "promote the flow of foreign and domestic capital" in Bangladesh enterprises.

This will be the second investment company coming after the enactment of the Foreign Private Investment (Promotion and Protection) Act of 1980 and will be intended to act as a catalyst to attract substantial foreign investment in the country.

What distinguishes SBJIC from IPDC is its larger capital structure besides its more powerful Saudi petrodollar backing. Broad objective-wise, both the investment companies have been designed to serve the same purpose—identification and promotion of viable investments, financing private sector projects and bringing together of necessary foreign and domestic capital for the same.

The promoters' agreement for IPDC was signed among its sponsors—the government of Bangladesh, Switzerland-based Industrial Promotion

Services (IPS), Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC) of the United Kingdom, West German company for economic cooperation (DEG) and Washington-based International Finance Corporation (IFC) on October 24, '81 in Dhaka.

With the government of Bangladesh investing 1.8 million dollar and each foreign sponsor contributing approximately 1.5 million dollar, the IPDC has not so far succeeded in making even any marginal impact on the industrial growth process of the country by way of more inflows of foreign private capital to the economy.

It is worthwhile to recall here that the then council of ministers while approving the IPDC project expressed the hope that the institution would be able within the shortest possible time "to attract foreign investment worth millions of dollars". (ref: the speech of the then Industries' Secretary M.M. Islam at the promoters' agreement signing ceremony).

While the IPDC in its actual operations remains yet dismally short of its avowed goals and targets, the agreement for setting

up the new SBJIC has now been signed in Dhaka last week exactly eighteen months and twenty days after the promoters' agreement was signed for establishing the first investment company following the enactment of the laws for promotion and protection of foreign private capital in the country in 1980.

The operational framework of SBJIC has been set forth in the related agreement in details, keeping clearly in view the distinct focus of the government now on wooing foreign private investments in the light of the new industrial policy. The company in which the Saudi government contributes half of the total share capital in convertible currency and the Bangladesh government the rest half in taka currency, will be exempted from all future or current restrictions on the movement of funds in and outside Bangladesh for the realisation of its objectives. All incomes of the company including dividends received shall be exempted from payment of tax in Bangladesh for a period of ten years and it shall enjoy all the rights, privileges, exemption and guarantees which are promulgated or may be promulgated for the encouragement of foreign capital investments in Bangladesh.

The agreement with its clause, in which the host Bangladesh government has

guaranteed the company and its assets against nationalisation, confiscation, freezing, sequestration or acquisition, is in general line with Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Act of 1980. The clause would now perhaps serve as an additional safety valve in this regard.

While the operational format for SBJIC has thus been made as much attractive as possible to induce the private investors mainly from the petro-dollar countries in collaboration with prospective Bangladesh investors in the private sector, the actual performance of the company will depend essentially on its promotional drive in the related fields.

As per the agreement, twenty percent of the nominal value of its shares would be paid by each party within one month after its signing, and the remaining capital stock would be paid within the next two years. The company would become operational with twenty percent of its share capital subscribed by the two parties.

Meanwhile, the investments of foreign private capital under joint venture in the country has not so far shown an encouraging trend, at least matching the high expectations of the government. Such investments totalled Tk. 850 million during the last three

years, according to a rough reckoning. Out of this, sanctions were accorded during the first ten months of the current fiscal year 1982-83 to 19 joint venture projects involving a foreign capital of Tk 600 million.

According to the disclosure made by the then minister for industries Jam-aluddin Ahmed in the Jatiyo Sangshad on June 15, '81, the number of total joint venture companies (including the multinationals) in operation in the country stood at only 73 with their total capital investments amounting to Tk 1465 million including investments of foreign partners of Tk 1155 million. According to his statement, the operational joint venture companies included seven units in the pharmaceutical sector (total investment-Tk 157 million), fifteen units in catching, canning and preservation of fish and sea foods (total investments-Tk 881.4 million) and ten units in ready-made garments sector (total investments—Tk 73 million) in 1981.

The foreign private capital investments in Bangladesh have been far short of the level of such flows to neighbouring countries.

According to the world development report (1982) of the World Bank, the net direct foreign private investments in Sri Lanka and Pakistan amounted to 80 million dollars and 57 million dollars respectively in 1980.

PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY FOR MANPOWER EXPORT ANNOUNCED

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 26 May 83 pp 1, 8

[Text] A public limited company will be set up to streamline manpower export from Bangladesh and narrow down the scope for racketeering operations by a section of manpower recruiting agents and sub-agents under the new overseas employment policy.

This was announced by Minister for Labour and Manpower Air Vice Marshal (Retd) Aminul Islam at a press conference held yesterday in his Secretariat office. He also threw light on different aspects of the overseas employment policy in the press conference.

The company will be named as Bangladesh Overseas Employment Public Limited Company. Fiftyone percent share of the company held by the company while the rest will be sold out.

The Manpower Minister said there is a huge potential of manpower export. Bangladesh started sending people abroad with employment from 1976 and the number of Bangladeshi nationals getting overseas employment has increased over the years.

A total of 2,18,188 Bangladesh nationals obtained jobs abroad. During the last calendar year 62,805 persons were employed abroad as against 55,787 in 1981, 30,573 in 1980, 15,725 in 1977 and 6,087 in 1976, the Minister added.

Bangladesh earned Tk. 1174.73 crore on account of remittances by the overseas Bangladesh nationals in 1982 while their remittances in 1981 amounted to Tk. 624.77 crore, Tk. 125.106 crore in 1977 and 35.85 crore in 1976. In the first two months of the current year the remittances were Tk. 280.08 crore as against Tk. 130.71 crore during the corresponding period of 1982.

The Minister observed that a business which involves huge earnings would remain fraught with loopholes quite naturally. But the Government has taken many steps to in the last one year to check these loopholes, he said.

The Minister said that the demand for Bangladeshi nationals for overseas employment was increasing except in four countries--Libya, Iraq, Lebanon

and Syria. During the last one year the number of Bangladeshis who were sent back for irregularities in their papers and non-existence of employing firms was a few.

He said that the Labour and Manpower Ministry would assist the Shipping Ministry to arrange employment of Bangladeshi sailors abroad.

Bangladesh Bank will issue performance guarantee to the Bangladeshi construction firms on the basis of clear-cut policy and competency of the firms seeking construction works abroad.

A 6-member committee has been formed with the Governor of Bangladesh Bank as its Chairman to make recommendations on a policy to be framed regarding creation of a workforce equipped with specialized training in different trades with a view to meeting demands from abroad.

The Manpower Minister said that a selection test system would be introduced to find out the right man for a right job. The District Manpower offices will conduct the tests.

Labour attache will be appointed in the countries where a minimum of 5,000 Bangladeshi workers are working. Branches of commercial banks will also be opened in these countries and the issue of arranging alternative investment facility will be examined.

The Government has decided to work out housing schemes for the wage earners in Dhaka, Chittagong and Khulna, to construct a hostel for them in Dhaka and to introduce life insurance for them on the basis of one-time premium system.

A Council Committee has been formed with the Manpower Minister as its convenor for inter-ministerial coordination and supervision.

Bangladeshi nationals have been employed in 16 countries. The number of Bangladeshi nationals employed abroad in 1981-82 was 65,418 including 183 engineers, 12 doctors, 2 nurses.

24,284 skilled workers, 3272 semi-skilled workers, 34981 unskilled workers and 2651 sailors, the Minister said.

He said that there were problems in procuring employment in the Far East countries for the overseas workers. Singapore does not issue work permits to the foreign nationals for jobs in that country while due to fall in the export of rubber, palm oil and tin from Malaysia, the country is facing the problem of surplus labour. Consequently, claims by certain agents about the huge demand of Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia were baseless. In this connection he referred to his discussion with the Malaysian authorities in which he was categorically told that the Malay-

asian Government does not issue work permit now to the foreign nationals.

Mr Islam said that during the last year various actions were taken against the dishonest manpower recruiting agents. Twenty six of them have lost their licences and are facing trials for direct involvement in malpractices, the licences of 35 agents have been held up pending investigation of allegations against them, the licences of 15 agents were not renewed because of their failure to carry on the business and 102 licences were surrendered since they failed to procure demand of workers from abroad.

Now there are 332 manpower recruiting agents of whom 59 are not operating owing to their failure to procure business.

In reply to a question the Minister said that the martial law courts had already disposed of thousands of cases against the agents. In most cases the job-speakers had got back the money they gave to agents.

Still there are cases of sending people abroad for employment with forged documents, but the number has been very few, the Minister said. But he added that the Ministry or the immigration authorities could not stop it fully.

He told a questioner that in the country there are 11 millions of unemployed workforce in the country.

EDUCATION MINISTER'S SPEECH AT CASABLANCA CONFERENCE

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 10 Jun 83 pp 5, 6

[Excerpt from speech by Dr. A. Majeed Khan, Minister for Education, Government of Bangladesh and Leader of the Bangladesh Delegation to the First General Conference of Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation held at Casablanca June 7-9]

[Text] I deem it a great privilege and a singular honour to be able to represent Bangladesh in the First General Conference of the Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization now being held in the magnificent city of Casablanca. Allow me, Mr. President, to take this opportunity to offer our sincerest felicitations to you and to express our confidence that under the able guidance of a personality of your erudition and eminence, the proceedings of this maiden but historic conference will be conducted with wisdom, vision and objectivity. May we assure you, Mr. President, of our best possible co-operation in making the conference a success.

Mr. President, the contemporary World of Islam, spanning a vast area of the globe from the beaches of Morocco to the islands of Indonesia and beyond, comprises more than one-fourth of mankind. Although it presents a kaleidoscope of languages customs and ethnic variations an overriding unity is clearly discernible in this rich diversity, symbolised by one great Ummah. Undoubtedly, the formation of the OIC was a historic event that has provided the Ummah with a common platform and a habitat. The next logical step was to create the Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO) with the main purpose of strengthening cooperation among the Islamic states in the fields of education, culture and scientific research and making the Islamic culture the axis of the educational curricula at all levels and stages.

There is no gainsaying the fact that we are still passing through a crisis of confidence as we are yet to acquire the twin qualities of self awareness and self-assurance. At the same time it is true that if there could be any power in the present day world which could match, nay even surpass the cultural and intellectual supremacy of the West it was the World of Islam with its own distinctive personality, its moral and spiritual appeal and above all, its characteristic programme of life. It is here that ISESCO is destined to play a crucial role by setting forth articulated goals and enlightened planning, deriving strength from the epistemology of Islam with a theoretical and

conceptual framework that is dynamic and operational. We must develop an awareness of the future along with a perception that will relate the Islamic teachings to to-day's problems and will meet the challenges of the future as well. Consequently, the present meeting provides a fitting forum to review our achievements, compare our experiences, exchange our views and above all to charter and strengthen a common course of action on the basis of equality and mutual respect.

Mr. President, I may briefly refer here to some recent measures adopted by Bangladesh so that Islam permeates more deeply all our endeavours in the fields of educational innovations, scientific programmes and cultural activities. New orientations have been imparted to curricula and textbooks right from the primary schools. In-service courses have been held for teachers of Madrasahs as well as for Imams of our mosques. Similarly, greater emphasis is being placed on the appreciation of cosmology as the starting point of all sciences in Islam as it deals with the creation of the wonderful world of Allah, who is One and at the same time Transcendent and Immanent. Besides all-out efforts are afoot to focus the true character of Islamic culture which includes the whole of mankind in its fold. In this context I may refer to the establishment of the Islamic University of Bangladesh. This University has been founded for turning out graduates as totally integrated scholars in Islam as well as in modern Arts and Sciences. The major objectives of the University are: (a) Co-ordination and integration of Islamic learning with the various branches of arts, sciences and commerce; (b) Improvement and re-orientation of Madrasah (theology) education from new perspectives; and (c) Higher studies and research in the various branches of Islamic Studies.

The Islamic University will be developed into a distinctive institution of higher learning and research in Islamic Studies and related disciplines. Every student of the University regardless of his field of specialization, will have to take two obligatory foundation papers comprising Arabic language and Islamiyyat including select readings from the Holy Quran and Sunnah coupled with essentials of Aqaid, Akhlaq, Islamic History and Culture.

Mr. President, recently a hitherto independent institution named the Institute of Islamic Education and Research has been merged with the Islamic University as its constituent institution, with the following functions: (a) To provide facilities for advanced study in Islamic Education leading to Bachelor's degree, Master's degree and Doctoral degree; (b) To make Islamic Culture the axis of educational curricula and syllabuses, text-books, teacher education, educational guidance, educational research etc. (c) To provide pre-service and in-service training to teachers of Arabic and Islamiyyat; (d) To promote writing and publication of books on Islamic subject; (e) To promote co-operation and co-ordination among scholars from the OIC member states through seminars, symposia, workshops and exchange programmes.

The Institute organized an International Seminar on Text Book Development from 5-11 March, 1981 which was attended by 80 eminent scholars from various Islamic countries. Its research findings have enabled the Ministry of Education to undertake a programme of Islamization at the primary level. Similar research is afoot for the secondary level as well. It has also undertaken an

in-service training programme for teachers of Madrasahs engaged in Islamic Education. It has also been planning to organize an International Seminar on teacher education as a follow-up programme of the First World Conference on Muslim Education held in Makka Mukarrama in 1977.

Mr. President, I may recall here the draft resolution jointly sponsored by Bangladesh Saudi Arabia Turkey Algeria and Pakistan, on co-operation between UNESCO and the OIC at the Second World Conference on Cultural Policies held in 1982 in Mexico city. The resolution has invited Director-General of UNESCO to take the following steps: (a- To develop the programme of studies of Islamic Culture and Civilization; (b) To promote exchanges and contacts between Islamic Culture and other cultures; (c) To further strengthen co-operation between UNESCO and the Organization of Islamic Conference and its affiliated bodies as between other Islamic institutions and foundation;

Needless to say the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) while standing for solidarity and fraternity among the Muslim countries all over the world it is also its responsibility to promote exchanges and contacts between Islamic Culture and other Cultures. With this end in view, the OIC has recognised the significance of the role of the cultural aspect of life of the people involved and has laid emphasis on cultural cooperation among them. In order to accelerate the process, the establishment of a forum that would organise and coordinate the desired activities was called for. The result was the establishment of a research centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture in Istanbul.

Mr. President, solidarity and fraternity among the Muslim nations can only be achieved when there is among them a real understanding of one another. Of course, mutual respect is a pre-condition to real understanding. This is by itself conditioned by due recognition of cultural elements both particular and universal. It is true that Muslim scientists and philosophers, litterateurs and artists have vastly influenced other cultures but it is also equally true that they were in their turn influenced by old cultural heritage as well. Here the early Muslims displayed an extraordinary genius for adaptability and adjustments in fast changing environments. As a result, Islam developed permanent roots during its sojourns. In that process naturally enough particular cultural elements were not only recognised but also absorbed in Islam by way of assimilation. But the university unity was never lost, for the Muslims themselves evolved a rich variety of forms and styles of their own. Hence unity in diversity has always been the quintessence of Islamic Culture. This unity could be preserved because the extent of adjustment and adaptability was limited to social and political spheres and there was no question of any compromise in basic ethics. Consequently, it was the religion of Islam which was responsible for the common political ideas and also the prime mover for the common civilization despite local variations. Again this unity is perceptible not only in the ideal but, in certain measures, also in practicality. The early Muslimes, free from any inhibiting complex, never really worried either about the universal or particular elements in their culture. They made the synthesized cultural pattern their own and passed their legacy on to Eastern and Western civilizations with an open mind. Constituting as it does an immensely glorious milestone in the history of human civilization, Islamic Culture does retain its perennial vitality despite setbacks it has suffered

under imperialist and colonial rules. To-day the Muslim Ummah is wide awake awaiting initiatives and drives towards the right directions. Hence the OIC.

Mr. President, the task confronting the OIC is really stupendous. The sources are lying scattered all over the globe. Evidences are fast disappearing and surviving ones are threatened with extinction and defacement. The problem brooks no delay and has to be attacked right now. It requires vigorous pursuit and prolonged team work in the field involving collective efforts in respect of research and preservation. And so was the idea behind the establishment of the Research Centre in Istanbul under the auspices of the OIC.

In order to cater to the needs of the region comprising Central and West Asia, North Africa and the Maghrib upto France and Spain, selection of Istanbul as the venue for the Centre has been most judicious. The fact, however, remains that the region Istanbul will have to serve is rather too vast. Hence there is a real danger of the entire region from Transoxania and Afghanistan to South and South-East Asia upto Indonesia being left out of focus. The issue is so crucial that it amply justifies establishment of a separate, full-fledged Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture somewhere in this region as a counterpart of that in Istanbul. In this context, Mr President allow me to place my country's proposal for the establishment of the above Centre in the historic city of Dhaka which the historian Bradley-Birt has aptly termed the 'Romance of Eastern Capital', adding further 'it is pre-eminently a Mussal man city--a city of mosques built by the faithful'. In fact, viewed from its very ideal geographical position, rich cultural resources and eighty million Muslim population, Bangladesh can legitimately hope to host the proposed Centre.

Before I conclude, Mr President, I wish to reiterate our firm faith in and unflinching support to the ISESCO principles and ideals which are aimed at conferring immense benefits not only on the Muslim Ummah but also on mankind in general. May I take this opportunity to extend our warm felicitations to the Director-General of ISESCO and his able colleagues for the hard work they have put in for the success of the first general conference of this nascent organization. Finally, I would like to express my profound sense of gratitude to you, Mr. President, and to Excellencies and Ladies and Gentlemen for lending me a patient hearing and for your kind co-operation.

CSO: 4600/1290

REPORT ON ERSHAD, MAHBABUR RAHMAN 24 MAY SPEECHES

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 25May 83 pp 1, 12

[Text]

Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad called upon all to sink their differences and forge greater unity for the economic emancipation of the toiling masses.

He was inaugurating the two-day national seminar on the "Participation of the people in the execution of development programmes" on Tuesday at Shilpakala Academy being attended by local body leaders.

He warned that a handful of people being instigated by extraneous elements were trying to disrupt peace and create instability in the country. He urged the people to single out these elements and resist their designs.

The CMLA said that his Government was committed to improve the condition of the rural people who constitutes the main bulk of the total population of the country. To achieve national development, he stressed, the country needed sincere and united work by all. He said that in the past the nation had seen too much of the politics of indiscipline, killing and bloodshed. "Today we need politics of unity, peace and production" he added.

In hard-hitting words to critics of his programmes, the CMLA said that "criticism for mere opposition" would not bring any good to the nation. He asked all not to indulge in personal criticism but to talk about needs and programmes that would improve the lot of the toiling masses.

The CMLA said that immediately after the War of Liberation the people were told that everything in the country was destroyed. But within a

year's time, he pointed out, many were found driving Toyota cars and living an affluent life. "The history was a witness to it and the people had not forgotten it", he said. He observed that he was not going to take an account of those people today but he warned "please do not indulge in mud-slinging". He advised all to forget the past differences and work unitedly for national development.

The CMLA reiterated his commitment to hand over power peacefully to an elected government. He said that his Government had no wish to cling to power. But, he reminded all to have a peaceful transfer of power it was the duty of all to maintain peace and stability. He sought the cooperation of all in fulfilling his commitments to the people.

Turning to water sharing, the Chief Martial Law Administrator asserted that Bangladesh had a right to the water of the Ganges and she must get her due share to save the people from the curse of Farakka.

Addressing over 1000 leaders of different local government bodies participating in a seminar the CMLA referred to the Indian Premier Indira Gandhi's recent statement in which she said if India had to accept Bangladesh's demand for the share of the Ganges water the people of Calcutta would suffer. "Are the people of our country not human beings" he asked the Indian Prime Minister and "we must get our share for our survival" General Ershad declared.

The CMLA said that during his talks with Mrs Gandhi he had asked for equitable share of the waters of the Ganges. "Waters have to be given and we must get it" the CMLA an-

nounced amidst thunderous applause from the audience.

The CMLA regretted that even an agreement was reached between the two neighbours six months ago India was yet to fulfil its commitment about the Tin-bigha corridor connecting the Dahagram enclave with Bangladesh mainland. Pointing out various problems being created by India for the people of the enclave, the CMLA asked the Indian Government if it did not honour the agreement why did it sign it.

General Ershad said that Bangladesh was a nation of Muslims and it fears none except the Almighty God. He said that Bangladesh might be a small country but the nation was great and no one could suppress it and deny its due share.

Terming the local body leaders as the pioneers of national development, the CMLA said that Government would give policy and guidance but the representatives of the people must implement those. He said that he had no political party of his own and so his critics were trying to discredit his government with malicious and false propaganda. Turning to the local body leaders, the CMLA said 'you are my men and you carry my programmes to the people'.

The CMLA warned the Government officials that if the pro-people programmes of his Government were not implemented properly the people's wrath would fall on them. 'You will be washed away by the rage of the people he told the Government officials.

Referring to the attempts for 'price-spiral' of essential commodities by the unscrupulous traders, the CMLA gave a strong warning to the business community to arrest the price-spiral. He said that he had done lot for the business community by giving them various facilities but, he regretted they had done nothing for me. He said that his Government would provide all sorts

of facilities to the business community for strengthening the national economy but not to exploit the common people.

The CMLA said 'I never lie to my people and give false promises to them.' He said that if his 18-point programmes were implemented the country would be self-sufficient in food within two years time and the nation would achieve a self-reliant economy.

The CMLA ended his 20-minute address to the local body leaders with a self-composed poem.

The inaugural session was presided over by Mr. Mahbubur Rahman, Minister for Local Government and Rural Development. The Secretary of the Ministry of Local Government Mr. Siddiqur Rahman read out the welcome address. Four representatives from four divisions also addressed the inaugural session. M. Haj Siddiqur Rahman, a former MP of BNP from Dhaka Division, Mr. Rezaul Karim from Chittagong Division, Mr. Dabirul Islam from Khulna Division and Mr. Fazlur Rahman from Rajshahi Division in their speeches supported the 18-point programmes of General Ershad and believed that the administrative reorganisation by the present Government would improve the lot of the rural people.

The inaugural session was attended by DCMLA Rear Admiral M. A. Khan, Cabinet Ministers and high-ranking military and civil officials. More than 1000 delegates of different local bodies are attending the national seminar.

Mahbubur Rahman

BSS adds, the Government has decided to increase the powers and functions of the village courts, the Local Government, Rural Development, Cooperatives and Religious Affairs Minister Mr. Mahbubur Rahman said in Dhaka on Tuesday.

Necessary instructions to the relevant authorities would also be issued soon for adherence to the existing rules of seeking pre-sanction from the controlling authorities before a Chairman and Member of the Union Parishad is arrested.

Mr. Mahbubur Rahman presided over the national seminar on "People's Participation on Implementation of Development Programmes", at Shilpa kala Academy in Dhaka in the morning. The Chief Martial Law Administrator, Lt. General H. M. Ershad inaugurated the seminar.

Mr. Mahbubur Rahman welcomed the proposals made at the inaugural session of the seminar by the participants for forming people's committees at different levels of life including national, district, thana and union for the implementation of the 18-point programme of the Government.

He said the 18-point programme has been declared as the charter of national survival and Magna Carta for the total socio-political and economic emancipation, he added.

He said that the nation did not like to restore politics of palace conspiracy and clique but want politics of nation-building in which the nine crore people must work hard to achieve the true objectives of independence.

The politics of hatred, killing, loot and corruption must be done away with once for all, he added.

Mr. Mahbubur Rahman said that whatever resources and fruits we have must be shared equally by all of us. He said the fruits of development must be distributed on the basis of individual services and contribution. Everyone of us must contribute to the state before we ask anything from it.

Over 1,000 delegates from all thanas of the country would identify problems and suggest remedy for the people's participation in development programmes, he said.

ERSHAD 6 JUN SPEECH TO TEACHERS' PARLEY REPORTED

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 7 Jun 83 pp 1, 12

[Text]

The Chief Martial Law Administrator, Lt. Gen. H.M. Ershad on Monday called upon the teachers to help the Government in maintaining healthy and normal academic atmosphere and discipline in the country's educational institutions. "Education is the backbone of a nation and we cannot allow any one to desecrate the sanctity of the seats of learning", the CMLA added.

Speaking as the chief guest at a special conference of the Bangladesh Shikhiak Samity Federation (a body of the Government and non-Government college, school and madrasa teachers) at Mohakhali on the day, the CMLA praised the teachers for their efforts in the spread of education. He said that the future of the nation will be bleak if "we fail to give proper education to our children."

Gen. Ershad said that it is the teachers who develop human beings into complete men and women by infusing knowledge, patriotism and discipline in them. The teachers are the symbol of the hopes and aspirations of a nation, he said and added that their social position stands next only to parents.

He said a section of teachers in the highest seats of learning, were trying to disturb the normal functioning of the institutions by abstaining from taking classes and instigating the students to violent actions to achieve their selfish goals. They have betrayed the cause of the nation and failed in the performance of

their sacred responsibility by such deeds, he maintained.

These teachers are not guided by their conscience, rather they are trying to create turbulence and chaos and thus pushing the country towards destruction, the CMLA said.

Posing a question he wanted to know against whom the university teachers were bringing out processions. "If required I shall publish the list of the underqualified university teachers and will tell the nation what wrongs are going on in the sacred arena of the highest seat of learning," the CMLA said.

He said that the nation spends Taka 12 crore to Taka 14 crore annually for running the Dhaka University. The university has a teaching staff of 837 of whom 149 are overstaying in foreign countries, Gen. Ershad said. He further pointed out that about 256 teachers do not have the requisite qualifications to become university teachers.

The CMLA said that this section of the teachers who being the product of a particular political group, are trying to have a government within the government in the name of exercising autonomy. He said that as the head of the Government he has to explain the exact condition prevailing in the universities as the fund for running the universities are provided by the people. He said that the people and the Government have the right to know the affairs of these institutions and under the pretext of autonomy such affairs cannot be kept

concealed from the people.

Talking about the students he said that every educational institution he visited he found the students leager to learn and that they were not responsible for the present state of affairs in the university. He said that the students were rather victims of ill-motives of a section of teachers.

Citing an example of wrong doings in some of the universities, he said that a plot of land belonging to the university has been transferred to a private owner without the knowledge of the government. Such affairs must not be allowed to continue and rule of law has to be restored he asserted.

Seeking the cooperation of the members of the Teachers Federation in the restoration of a healthy academic atmosphere doing away with the prevailing "undesirable atmosphere" in the highest educational institutions he said that "Inshallah we will restore sanctity and discipline".

The CMLA said that the nation will march ahead to the path of progress if we remain united and work unitedly to the attainment of our cherished goal—economic emancipation. None will be able to destroy us if we remain united he said.

Reiterating his Government's determination for restoration of healthy academic atmosphere in the educational institutions, he said that such atmosphere is prevailing every where excepting in some highest seats of learning. He said that the torch of learning has to be spread to the nook and corner of the country to ensure socio-economic emancipation of the people to make the independence (fruitful) and meaningful for all.

He said that alien forces were trying to use the students as instrumental for creating social disorder with a view to undermining the independence. The independence and sovereignty earned through blood shed cannot be undone if we are not alive to the conspiracies, he reiterated.

He said that the Government will introduce people oriented work biased and pragmatic

universal education in the country. The responsibility of the primary education has been transferred to the thana administration for improving its condition he said.

If we cannot raise the standard of our primary education, we cannot live as a self-respecting nation, he further said.

He said that necessary steps will be taken to train the imams of the mosques to impart education to the rural children. He said that the Government will take the responsibility of paying the salary of all non-Government teachers in phases for smooth expansion of education in the country.

Describing the teachers as the 'gem of the crown' of the society, Gen. Ershad declared amidst cheers of the audience, that directive would be issued so that the teachers are not required to get character certificates. He said that his Government is determined to restore the social prestige of the teachers.

He said that the present Government has launched jihad against corruption. His Government has been able to eradicate it through concerted efforts from the top level of the Government machinery which was infested with the vice before the taking over power, by the present Government the CMLA said.

The CMLA sought the cooperation of all to join hand with him for uprooting corruption from the society once for all.

Maulana M. A. Mannan Secretary General Bangladesh Shikha Samity Federation Principal J. K. M. Shahidullah Principal Tofayel Ahmed Chowdhury Prof. Ali Reza Mr. A. Khaleque Mr Shahidur Rahman also addressed the conference on behalf of their respective associations.

Maulana Mannan read out resolutions for raising the social position of the members of the teaching profession. His proposals included regularisation of the services of teachers of newly nationalised government colleges increase in initial pay of different categories of teachers etc.

BSS adding turning to the demand made by some political parties for the revival of the 1972 Constitution the CMLA said

such type of demand is nothing but a farce when it is being raised by political parties who in 1975 had amended the constitution for presidential form of government.

He said Khondoker Mushtaq Ahmed who himself was President under presidential form is now also demanding the return of 1972 Constitution which only can be described as hoax.

Gen. Ershad said the question on the form of government was twice decided by the people when President Zia fought presidential election against General Osmany seeking people's verdict on the form of government and ultimately winning the verdict by a big margin and again during the election race between President Sattar and Dr. Kamal Hossain where by Sattar came out elected winning verdict in favour of presidential system.

The CMLA said how can he override the verdict of the people by returning to 1972 constitution. If people desire through a formal means only then it can be done he added.

He said the political parties are speaking of the 72 Constitution only to bluff the people. He urged the people to identify the politicians who ruled the country but had little relation between their words and deeds.

Gen. Ershad warned that any designs by any quarters to create disorder in the society would be nipped in the bud.

Referring to the recent detection of smuggling bid at the Zia International Airport the CMLA said an enquiry committee has been instituted to bring the culprits to book. The culprits connected with the smuggling bid will be tried in an open court headed by a civilian judge he said.

The CMLA said the Airport Custom revenue which earlier ranged around Taka six crore annually has increased to Taka 26 crore with the tightening up of the administration after the present Government came to power. "May I ask where had the Taka 20 crore revenue annually drained out in the past. He questioned adding "the people should now realise the motive behind the malafid propaganda about the incident".

REPORT ON ERSHAD 4 JUN SPEECH TO ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 5 Jun 83 pp 1, 8

[Text] Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. Gen. H.M. Ershad on Saturday declared that the programmes of his Government would aim at reflecting the Islamic ideals and values in every sphere of the national life.

Addressing a joint conference of the Bangladesh Ulema Parishad and the Bangladesh Qazi Samity at Bangladesh Shishu Academy the CMLA stressed the need for establishing basic values in the society. He observed that in the absence of such values the country would have indiscipline, chaos and anarchy that ultimately impede the overall national development.

Emphasising the role of ulema in establishing Islamic ideals and values in the society the CMLA believed that the ulema would devote themselves fully to the national development task by forging unity and brotherhood among themselves. He was happy that the ulema had already extended support to the programmes of his Government. "These programmes are not of my Government alone but of the nine crore people of the country", he said.

The CMLA observed that after the launching of the programmes people had already started getting the benefit of those. He said that to implement these programmes united efforts through hard work sacrifice and missionary zeal were needed. He said that all energy should be concentrated to reflect the Islamic values by ensuring the rights of exploited and deprived people.

General Ershad announced that the existing Muslim Family Laws Ordinance would be amended to remove the lapses and anomalies. He said that the new law would ensure the equal rights of men and women in the society.

Giving a brief account of Government measures the CMLA said that the people-oriented, practical and far-reaching steps taken by his Government had already infused new life to the national economy and created an atmosphere congenial to achieve prosperity and progress. He said that through administrative re-organisation Government had been taken to the doorsteps of the people.

The judicial system had been made easily accessible and effective by decentralising the judiciary, he added.

The CMLA asserted that all the programmes of his Government aimed at improving the lot of toiling masses. He believed that the progress and prosperity of the country depended on the development of the 68,000 villages. He reminded all that peace, discipline and stability were the pre-requisites for economic prosperity. He sought cooperation from all irrespective of caste and creed to implement the programmes launched by his Government.

Referring to the praises bestowed on him for his initiative in developing and improving the condition of Baitul Mukarram and Lalbagh Mosques the CMLA said that as a Muslim he always wanted to see that there was a mosque in every corner of the country where the people could listen to 'Ajan' which is very dear to every Muslim. He said that in the past the premises of Baitul Mukarram mosque used to be vitiated by political activities. He was happy that now the devotees could offer their prayers without any outside disturbances.

The CMLA said that the King Fahd of Saudi Arabia had accepted his invitation to visit Bangladesh. This proved that the Muslim world was now convinced of the role of Bangladesh in upholding and pioneering the cause of Islam and the interests of the Muslim, he observed.

Presided over by Moulana Aminul Islam, President of Bangladesh Ulema Parishad the joint conference was addressed by Law Minister Mr K.A. Bakr.

In his speech the Law Minister hoped that the ulema and qazis would play their due role in inspiring the people to participate in the national development process. He said that the Government was aware of the problems of the ulema and qazis. He hoped that the ulema and qazis would take up their respectable position in the society by preaching religious values and advising people to better their family life.

The CMLA was presented a copy of the Holy Quran. The conference was rounded off with 'doa' led by Moulana Aminul Islam seeking divine blessings for the welfare of the country.

CSO: 4600/1287

LABOR MINISTER ADDRESSES COMMONWEALTH MEETING

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 4 Jun 83 pp 1, 8

[Text]

GENEVA, June 3 (BSS): Air Vice Marshal (retd) K.M. Aminul Islam, Minister for Labour and Manpower urged the Commonwealth member countries to give greater weightage to creation of employment in developing countries.

He was addressing the second meeting of Commonwealth Ministers of Employment and Labour in Geneva on May 30.

Thirty seven countries were represented at the meeting which was attended by an observer from the ILO.

Mr. Islam said that the job opportunities in the developing countries have not been created at a speed in commensurate with the expansion of the workforce.

He said that Bangladesh government has taken steps to divert resources at rural sector for widening the base of employment in rural areas and to avoid the baneful effect of migration of surplus workforce to urban areas. Simultaneously

measures taken to improve the skill of the workforce and to make them suitably qualified for employment by utilizing the technical facilities and vocational training institutes in the country, he added.

Mr Islam pointed out that Bangladesh has been encouraging mass participation in public works and training cum-self employment programmes to create employment for vast workforce.

He suggested for close-cooperation and transfer of technology among the member countries for sustaining development programmes in developing countries in the community.

He emphasised the need for evolving a mechanism for supporting mass participation programme in countries faced with increasing unemployment.

He strongly advocated for liberalization of international trade to enable the developing countries for earning much needed foreign exchange.

CSO: 4600/1286

CHITTAGONG EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE BEGINS OPERATION

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 4 Jun 83 pp 1, 8

[Text]

The Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) has started functioning with its headquarters at Chittagong and an office at Dhaka. 97 plots in the Chittagong Export Processing Zones (CEPZ) are now ready with necessary infrastructure and services for allotment to the prospective entrepreneurs at home and abroad for setting up cent per cent export-oriented industries. It was learnt officially on Thursday.

Enterprises manufacturing, processing or assembling for export would be eligible for registration as zone enterprise. Export-oriented industries could be based either on local or imported raw materials. Entrepreneurs will be allowed flexibility in selecting industrial projects.

Prospective entrepreneurs have been advised to make all their enquiries and send proposals for setting up industries in the EPZ to BEPZA head office now located at CDA Building (3rd floor), Court Road Chittagong and to Dhaka office at Shilpabhaban (3rd floor), Motijheel Commercial Area.

The BEPZA will give sanctions for investments by foreign as well as Bangladeshi entrepreneurs ordinarily resident abroad owing 100 per cent foreign exchange resources for total investment cost of the project including cost of construction, raw materials and entire working capital. It will give sanction for invest-

ments in joint-venture projects between foreign and Bangladeshi entrepreneurs resident in Bangladesh. For such type of investment the cost of capital machinery, spare parts raw materials shall have to be provided by the foreign partners from funds to be brought from abroad. Local currency cost of the investment including working capital may be contributed by the Bangladeshi partners. The BEPZA will also give sanctions for investments by the Bangladeshi entrepreneur resident in Bangladesh owning 100 per cent resources. The cost of machinery, spare parts; raw materials and other imported capital goods shall have to be financed under non-repatriable foreign exchange, Wage Earners' Scheme (WES), Export Performance Licence (XPL), or such other arrangements as may be approved.

Zone enterprises would be allowed a 5-year tax holiday regardless of the size of investment and number of persons employed. After the expiry of initial five years the enterprises will be allowed rebate of 50 per cent of income tax on export sales.

Imports of capital machinery and spares, instruments, apparatus and appliances including testing and quality control equipment and parts thereof, materials and equipment for construction of building and factories in the zone as well as imported items such as raw and packaging materials destined for re-export will be freely allowed into the zone. The

enterprises will be completely exempted from payment of excise and export duties on goods produced in the zone.

Full repatriation of profits and capital is guaranteed by the Government of Bangladesh.

Fully developed industrial plots with adequate infrastructure will be leased out to prospective investors initially for 30 days.

Standard factory buildings and warehouses constructed by the Authority will also be leased out to certain types of industries.

For speedy disposal of investment proposals and convenience of investors rules, regulations, import-export documentation and procedures under the EPZ system have been made simple with minimum formalities.

Garment industries involving total investment to Tk. 150 lacs and above will have to be established in the CEPZ. 10 such industries sanctioned for EPZ and now temporarily operating at Dhaka shall move to CEPZ on expiry of their temporary permit and with proven experience.

CSO: 4600/1285

PRESS RELEASE ON FOREIGN MINISTER'S SRI LANKA VISIT

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 2, 3 Jun 83

[2 Jun 83 p 4]

[Text]

Following Press release was issued in Colombo on Tuesday at the conclusion of four-day visit of Foreign Minister Mr. A R S Doha to Sri Lanka, reports BSS.

His Excellency Mr. A R Shams-ud Doha, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh paid an official visit to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka from 28th to 31st May, 1983 at the invitation of the Hon. C.S. Hameed MP Minister for Foreign Affairs. The visit was viewed by both sides as being one of goodwill made in the context of further strengthening existing ties of close friendship and co-operation.

During his visit H.E. Mr. Shams-ud Doha was received by His Excellency J.R. Jayewardene President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. The Foreign Minister conveyed to His Excellency the President the greetings and best wishes of His Excellency Mr. Justice A.F. Ahsanuddin Chowdhury President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and His Excellency Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad, psc, the President of the Council of Ministers of Bangladesh. A message was also conveyed from the President of the Council of Ministers to the President of Sri Lanka. The visiting Foreign Minister also toured Kandy and the Victoria dam of the accelerated Mahaweli development scheme.

The two Foreign Ministers held talks on a wide range of bilateral, regional and international issues. The talks were held in atmosphere of informality, frankness, warmth, cordiality and complete understanding which reflected the prevailing bilateral ties. Foreign Minister Shams-ud Doha was

assisted by His Excellency Mr. A H F K Sidique High Commissioner for Bangladesh in Sri Lanka Ambassador C.M. Shafi Sami Director-General South Asia at the Foreign Ministry in Dhaka and Mr Z S Chowdhury Counsellor at the High Commission of Bangladesh in Colombo. Foreign Minister Hameed was assisted by Dr Lal Jayawardene and Messrs. J C Rajajakse (Director South Asia) L B C Monerawela (Director/Economic Affairs) and D.E.N. Rodrigo (Director/Non Aligned), all of the foreign ministry in Colombo.

The ministers reviewed at length the whole range of bilateral relations including performance under the existing shipping services and culture. They carefully considered the outcome of inter-action to date, took note of constraints which had been experienced in fully developing the desired inter-action and agreed on the need to broaden and intensify the prevailing level of inter-action.

As an immediate measure designed to provide an impetus to the further development of this the ministers agreed to establish a joint committee comprising a small number of officials of the two sides. This committee would meet as a matter of urgency both to review the prevailing status in respect of already proposed as well as initiated inter-actions and to identify feasible new areas for inter actions. In addition, the ministers agreed on the need for regular meetings at their level at frequent intervals to review progress in bilateral cooperation and to exchange views on matters of common interest.

Incomplete.

[Text]

Following is the remaining part of the text of the Press release issued in Colombo on Tuesday at the conclusion of 4-day visit of Foreign Minister Mr. A.R.S. Doka to Sri Lanka. The first part of the Press release was published in our yesterday's issue.

6. Turning to regional affairs the ministers noted with satisfaction the successful completion of preparation for structured cooperation within their region. They looked forward in the context to the forthcoming meeting in New Delhi of South Asian Foreign Ministers to launch the agreed integrated programme of action. The ministers also recalled the original proposal of the Bangladesh government for a meeting of regional leaders at summit level with a view to forging regional co-operation. They shared the expectation that the forthcoming regional foreign ministers meeting would lead to such a summit meeting at an early date.

7. The ministers also reviewed in depth the prevailing situation concerning security and stability into their region. In this connection they expressed their continuing deep concern at the growing super power confrontation in the area of the Indian Ocean. They agreed to continue their close cooperation with a view to ensuring the convening of the proposed UN conference on the Indian Ocean in Colombo in 1984, as a first step in the implementing of the IOPZ declaration.

8. In discussing international affairs the two ministers expressed their conviction that the Non-Aligned Movement constitutes a just positive and independent factor for universal peace and security. Recalling the particular the economic declaration and the New Delhi message adopted at the recently concluded 7th non-aligned summit conference in New Delhi, the foreign ministers agreed on the need to co-operate closely for the implementation of all measures identified there in and especially action to initiate the earliest possible dialogue between the leaders of developing and developed countries as proposed by his excellency President J.R. Jayewardene of Sri Lanka with a view to achieving a concerted global approach to economic problems, especially those of an

immediate pressing nature such as easing debt burdens eliminating restrictive trade practices and stabilising commodity prices.

9. In regard to the situation prevailing in Afghanistan the two ministers reiterated the commitment of their countries to the principles for a comprehensive settlement enunciated in the declaration of the 7th non-aligned summit conference recently concluded in New Delhi, on the basis of withdrawal of foreign troops full respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan, principle of non-intervention and non-interference in internal affairs and the right of the Afghan refugees to return to their homes in safety and honour. In this connection they viewed the present indirect talks being conducted in Geneva under the aegis of the UN Secretary-General's special representative as a positive factor contributing to such an end.

10. In a review of the situation in Kampuchea the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh explained that his country had extended diplomatic recognition to the coalition government and considered its formation an important and positive step forward in the search for a political solution. The two ministers agreed on the need for an early and a comprehensive political solution which would provide for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Kampuchea the restoration of its independence sovereignty and territorial integrity in accordance with the declaration of the international conference on Kampuchea and the relevant resolutions of United Nations General Assembly.

11. Turning to the Middle East the ministers stressed the urgent need for an early settlement of the question of Palestine, which is the core of the Middle East problem. They reiterated the view that a just and durable peace in the Middle East can be achieved only on the basis of the total and unconditional withdrawal by Israel from all occupied Palestinian and Arab territories including Jerusalem and the realisation of the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people including the right to have an independent state in their homeland, under the leadership of the PLO. The

sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. They further expressed concern over the situation prevailing in Lebanon and agreed that the Lebanese people should enjoy full and unfettered sovereignty.

12. The ministers expressed their distress at the continuing war between Iran and Iraq and the heavy toll in both men and resources it is exacting. They urged the two parties to move towards a just and honorable settlement.

13. H.E. Foreign Minister Mr Shams-ud Doha expressed his gratitude for and appreciation of the warm friendly reception and hospitality received from the government and people of Sri Lanka. He extended an invitation to the Hon. Foreign Minister Hameed to visit Bangladesh at a mutually convenient early date. The invitation was accepted with thanks.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Republic Square, Colombo May
1983.

CSO: 4600/1284

FRG ENVOY HANDS OVER GRANT TO FOOD MINISTER

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 3 Jun 83 p 1

[Text] The Federal Republic of Germany has provided pesticide equipment fumigation sheet and other goods worth 2 million Deutsche Mark (about Taka 2.19 crore) under its Food Security Assistance Programme to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The materials to be used for the preservation of foodstuff reached the country earlier. FRG Ambassador to Bangladesh Mr Baron Von Marschall ceremoniously handed over the Terman grant to Food Secretary Mr. Mohammad Ali.

The pesticide will be used in the food godowns all over the country to reduce storage losses. It is estimated that proper application of pesticide might save up to 40,000 tons of food grain, which would have otherwise been lost due to storage pest and infestation.

Direct technical assistance under the FRG Food Security Assistance Programme till December last year amounted to Taka 10 crore, Mr. Mohammad Ali said. The programme began in 1974. Describing FRG as one of the important food donors, Mr. Ali said during the last one decade, West Germany has provided wheat worth Taka 230 crore to Bangladesh.

Ambassador Marschall indicated that his government would continue its food aid to Bangladesh in the future. He said part of the 3,35,000 tons of wheat his country had provided to Bangladesh was utilized in the food forwork programme.

CSO: 4600/1284

PANEL APPROVES ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 2 Jun 83 pp 1, 8

[Text] The National Economic Council has approved a Taka 3,483.86 crore Annual Development Programme for the next fiscal year raising the outlay by 15.2 per cent over that of the current year a Government Press release announced in Dhaka on Wednesday reports BSS.

Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. Gen H.M. Ershad presided over the meeting held in Dhaka Tuesday The ADP would consist of Taka 1,961.30 crore as Taka resource and Taka 1,522.56 crore as project aid for the next year beginning on July 1.

The new ADP envisages a 'directional change' in the investment pattern for rural areas It allocates Taka 338.3 crore for development of Thana infrastructure and development assistance to Thana Parishad Taka 186 crore has been earmarked for development assistance to Thana Parishad.

The Thana Parishad is expected to take up its own development programme within the allocation so provided and for which a set of guidances would be issued shortly by the government.

The overall growth rate of the economy has been projected to be six per cent. Sectoral contribution has been estimated to be 5.9 per cent in agriculture 6.4 per cent in industries 20 per cent in power and gas 6 per cent in commerce and transport and 5.8 per cent in other sectors.

The growth rate of the economy cannot the announcement added be achieved only through The investments in the ADP which can however play an important role though in providing substantial stimulation to the economy.

This programme for the next financial year however includes 17 projects having a total allocation of Taka 29.62 crore out of which local currency amounts to Taka 16.26 crore--to be financed entirely by the own resources of the implementing agency concerned in the public sector--and a project aid component of Taka 13.36 crore.

Out of the remaining allocation of Taka 3454.24 crore 910 projects including 59 new projects will be implemented during the year 83-84 through the ADP. Of

the total projects 435 have been designated as core or priority projects having an allocation of 73.2 per cent of the total allocation and 76.8 per cent of the sectoral allocation.

Aided projects numbering 430 have received 69.9 per cent of the total allocation. The implementing agencies have been asked to submit realistic physical programme for project activities by next month (July)

The ADP for 1983-84 envisages directional change in the investment pattern in favour of rural areas. Following the Government policy of administrative decentralisation and devolution of planning and development process the ADP has provided Taka 338.3 crore for development of thana infrastructure and development assistance to Thana Parishad.

Out of Taka 166 crore earmarked for the development assistance to Thana Parishad each of the thana which have since been upgraded are expected to be provided with an allocation of Taka 50 lakh on an average and the thanas to be upgraded in the next phases at the average rate of Taka 30 lakh.

The Thana Parishad is expected to take up its own development programme within the allocation so provided and for which a set of guidelines will be issued by the Government shortly.

In addition Thana Parishad will also be entrusted with the responsibility of implementation of some suitable projects now being executed centrally and plans are also under way to transfer some divisible components of some nationally executed projects which must of necessity continue to remain the responsibility of the national level agencies.

In formulating the ADP for 1983-84 the core projects directly productive projects; projects in advanced stage of completion and aided projects have been given priority in allocation of resources.

About 30 per cent of the allocation has been provided to agriculture: water resources and rural development sectors 11 per cent to industries 19.5 per cent to power and natural resources 9 per cent to transport sector (excluding its share from the allocation meant for thana infrastructure and 14.2 per cent to socio-economic sectors.

In addition to the programmes reflected in the ADP: 4 lakh tons of foodgrains valued at Taka 158 crore will be utilised for Food for Works Programme during the financial year.

zr40ffi

Besides: some development programmes particularly relating to credit facilities; worth Taka 135 crore will also be implemented outside the ADP through Bangladesh Bank; Bangladesh Krishi Bank and other banks.

The ADP for 1983-84 has also been geared to productive and rural-oriented investment. Fifty per cent of the total ADP allocation has been provided for directly productive projects and 40 per cent of the allocation has almost exclusively been made for rural-based investments.

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The programme envisaged production targets of 161 lakh tons of foodgrains; 55 lakh bales of jute 45 thousand bales of cotton and 940 lakh pounds of tea during the financial year.

Irrigated area will be extended to 63.45 lakh acres as against the targeted acreage of 51.75 lakh in 1982-83.

In the industries sector; emphasis has been laid on balancing; modernisation; rehabilitation and management; development of industrial establishments

Priority has been accorded to the construction of Chittagong and Palash Urea Fertilizer Factory for production of 5 61 and 1 0 lakh tons of urea respectively

Electrification; including rural electrification programme has also been emphasised 1500 miles of power transmission line will be constructed by the Power Development Board and the targeted transmission mileage for Rural Electrification Board has been set at 2000 miles

In the social sectors education; health and population control programmes have received adequate priority in the allocation of resources

The overall growth rate of the economy has been projected to be 6 per cent. Sectoral contribution is estimated to be 59 per cent in agriculture; 6.4 per cent in industries; 20 per cent in power and gas; 6 per cent in commerce and transport and 5.8 per cent in other sectors. Sbbn-4

The growth rate of the economy cannot; however; be achieved only through the investments in the ADP which can play an important role through in providing substantial stimulation to the economy.

Collaborative and supplementary efforts by the private sector and other non-development activities with equal vigour will also be required to attain the growth rate.

Liberalisation of procedures and incentive structure for investment and operational efficiencies will require to be designed. on

The NEC emphasised that success of the ADP will largely depend upon resource generation which can only be achieved through orchestrated performance not only in development sectors but also in non-development sectors as well including an expanded import programme and export performance 43

The major emphasis during the coming year will be on implementation efficiency and system reforms for this purpose.

CSO: 4600/1281

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AIDS IN UPLIFT PROJECTS

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 2 Jun 83 p 1

[Text] RAJSHAHI June 1--Asian Development Bank (ADB) has provided 53.9 million dollar equivalent to Taka over 130 crore to Bangladesh for the development of road communications, irrigation and also for financing production-oriented industry in Rajshahi Pabna and Kustia districts.

The Chairman, Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation Mr. Mohammad Sirajuddin told BSS that the amount sanctioned to Bangladesh by ADB under North West Project covering the three districts will benefit to over one crore people. He said that the money will be utilised through IRDP and BSCIC for cottage industry BADC for irrigation and Animal Husbandry and Fisheries departments.

In reply to a question Mr. Serajuddin said that the amount will be spent for industrial infrastructure irrigation and production purposes for the benefit of people of the area. He said out of the amount eleven point three million dollar equivalent to over Taka 25 crore will be spent for construction and repairs of roads, bridges, culverts and irrigation canals poultry farm fishing net and cattle breeding in the three districts. He said 80 lakh US dollars will be spent by BSCIC for the all-round development of small and cottage industry in the area.

CSO: 4600/1281

NEW PEASANT FRONT SUPPORTS ERSHAD PROGRAM

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 1 Jun 83 pp 1, 8

[Text] Jatiya Krishak Front a broad based national peasants organisation was formed in Dhaka on Monday with M. M. Abbasuddin Advocate Azizul Haque and Advocate Abdul Kader as Convener and Joint Conveners respectively reports BSS.

According to a Press release the newly floated Krishak Front has extended total support to the 18-point development programme of the CMLA H. M. Ershad after a discussion of long eight hours

The leaders of the Front also called upon all the "anti-Baksal political parties" of the country to accept the reality and extend their total support to the 18-points programme of the CMLA

The Press release also said that the meeting which was presided over by President of Bangladesh Bhumihiin Kishak Samity Mr. M M. Abasuddin was participated by Prof. Akhtanuzzaman General Secretary Bhumihiin Krishak Samity Prof. Faruqul Islam President Bangladesh Akh Chashi Samity Advocate Abdul Kader Biswa Muslim Juba Praishad (Bangladesh Branch) Master Abdus Sobhan President Majher Char Krihak Samabaya Samity Mr. Aub Ali Hawlader President Bangladesh Tamak Chashi Samity Advocate Azizul Haque and Advocate Nizamuddin and Master Shahidullah President of Pat Chashi Samity.

The Press release said that the meeting have discussed threadbare the 18-points programme of the CMLA and hailed the bold steps of the Government for rooting out corruption. It strongly criticised the past governments for their misdeeds and opined that it was possible to introduce collective farming and launching an agriculture revolution' in the country under the leadership of the CMLA H M Ershad.

The meeting also stressed the need for 'a stable government' and gave a call to all honest dedicated and eminent people to carry forward the programmes of the CMLA.

The speakers at the meeting also demanded of the Government to punish the culprits of the Char Kashimpur incident and form a high powered committee so that the landless peasants of the Char areas were not suppressed'.

The Press release also announced that the Front would organise its units throughout the country within coming one month and convene a grand peasants conference soon.

The President of the meeting Mr. Abbasuddin hailed the measures of the present Government for the welfare of the people and said that this is for the first time in 200 years that a Bangladeshi rule is established in the country. He said that the administration is now at the doorsteps of the common people.

CSO: 4600/1279

LONG-TERM TRADE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH NEPAL

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 1 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] Bangladesh and Nepal have explored the possibilities of entering into a long-term trade arrangement and setting up of a joint chamber of commerce, according to agreed minutes signed in Dhaka on Tuesday at the end of week-long bilateral trade talks, reports BSS.

Both sides reviewed the existing trade relations and identified potential items of exchange between them.

Nepal has shown interest to export pulses, cardamom, superior quality tobacco, fresh fruits, marble powder chips linseed, boulderstone to Bangladesh.

Bangladesh has offered urea fertilizer bitumen, electric wires and telephone cables, drugs and medicines, textiles including Jamdani and grey cloth, G.I. pipes crockeries sanitary wares, diesel engines news prints paper and paper products, packet tea and glycerine.

Both sides also reviewed the existing transit facilities of Nepalese exports and imports from Chittagong Port and explored the possibilities of expansion of such facilities.

The agreed minutes were signed by Mr. N.B. Thapa the leader of the seven-member Nepalese trade delegation and Mr. Amin Mian Chowdhury Joint Secretary Ministry of Commerce and Industries.

After the signing the agreed minutes Mr. Thapa thanked his Bangladesh counterpart for extending economic cooperation and the transit facilities of Nepalese goods.

He said there were wide prospect of bilateral cooperation in the economic fields and setting up joint venture industries.

The delegation would carry draft agreements on special trading arrangement and formation of joint chamber of commerce for consultation and consideration of the Nepalese Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Amin Mian Chowdhury assured Mr. Thapa of transit facilities in accordance with the need of Nepal's requirement with additional space barges rail tracks.

During their stay in Bangladesh, the Nepalese delegation held meetings with the officials of Trading Corporation of Bangladesh Export Promotion Bureau and Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industries.

They visited Dhaka-Baghdad Carpet Factory at Chittagong and held talks with Chittagong Port officials.

The Nepalese delegation is expected to leave Dhaka today (Wednesday.)

CSO: 4600/1279

TEXT OF BANGLADESH-MALDIVES JOINT STATEMENT

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 31 May 83 p 4

[Text]

Following is the text of the joint statement at the end of a three-day visit of Foreign Minister A.R. Shams-ud Doha to Maldives, reports BSS.

'At the invitation of his excellency Mr. Fathulla Jameel, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives, his excellency Mr A.R. Shams-ud Doha, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh paid an official visit to the Republic of Maldives from 26-28 May 1983.

'On their arrival the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh and the members of his delegation were given a very warm and cordial welcome by the government of Maldives which was symbolic of the strong bonds of friendship and co-operation between the two brotherly Muslim countries.

'During the visit, the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh was received by his excellency Mr Maumood Abdul Gayoom President of the Republic of Maldives. The Foreign Minister conveyed to his excellency the President the greetings and best wishes of his excellency Mr Justice A.F.M. Ahsanuddin Chowdhury President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and his excellency Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad ndc psc the President of the Council of Ministers of Bangladesh.

'The two Foreign Ministers held discussion on wide ranging subjects covering bilateral relations international and South Asian regional matters of mutual interest. The discussion were held in an atmosphere of friendship, cordiality and complete understanding.

Reviewing the international situation, both the Foreign Ministers expressed grave concern at the deteriorating international situation which posed increased increasing threat to peace and security in this re-

gion and the world. They reaffirmed the commitment of their government to the UN charter and the principles and objectives of the Non-Aligned Movement. They expressed great satisfaction over the outcome the recent Non-aligned summit and felt that the implementation of the decisions taken at the summit would go a long way towards bringing about peace and order in the world.

Condemning the continuing Israeli aggression against the Arab and the Palestinian people, they reiterated the view that a just and lasting peace in West Asia can be achieved only on the basis of total and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories including Al-Quds Al Sharif realisation of the legitimate and inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people including their right to establish an independent state of their own in their home land under leadership of the PLO the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

While reviewing the situation prevailing in Afghanistan and Kampuchea the two Foreign Ministers called for an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of foreign troops and full respect of the independence sovereignty and territorial integrity of these countries. They also called for creation of conditions to enable the peoples of the two countries to determine their own destiny from outside interference and intervention.

The two Foreign Ministers expressed their profound sorrow and great concern over the continuing Iran-Iraq war and appealed to them for an immediate cessation of the hostilities and an end to the war and reaffirmed their support for

the current efforts in this direction.

The two Foreign Ministers also noted that as a result of recent developments, the Indian Ocean area had become a focus of great power rivalry.

They called for the speedy implementation of the United Nations resolution declaring the Indian Ocean a zone of peace and to work for the success of the conference on Indian Ocean to be held in Sri Lanka.

On the international economic situation both sides noted with concern the worsening of the world economic situation leading to a widening gap between the developing and developed countries. They called for the speedy implementation of the special measures already agreed upon by the international community in favour of the least developed countries.

They reaffirmed their commitment to the establishment of a just new international economic order keeping in view the interests of the developing world, in particular the least developed countries. They stressed that progress should be made towards launching of global round of negotiations to achieve this end.

In reviewing the situation in the South Asian region the two Ministers were of the view that the preparatory stage has adequately advanced to permit launching of the integrated programme of action. They welcomed the recent decision taken at the meeting of the foreign secretaries of the countries of the South Asian region to hold a meeting of the foreign ministers were of the view that structured regional cooperation in South Asia would lead to the strengthening of relations amongst the countries and contribute to the betterment

of the quality of life of peoples of the region.

In the sphere of bilateral relations the two ministers expressed satisfaction at the steady growth of relations between the two countries. They noted that there was considerable scope for increase of mutually beneficial in bilateral and multilateral spheres to promote the well-being of their peoples and to meet the challenges of economic development.

In order to expand culture education and sports ties between the two peoples the two Foreign Ministers signed an agreement on culture education and sports during the visit. They also signed an agreement on abolition of visa between the two countries, with a view to facilitating travel between their countries.

The two Foreign Ministers also agreed to set up a joint committee at the level of foreign secretary to identify further specific areas of cooperation between the two countries and to promote the scope and content of such cooperation as well as to provide direction to it.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh expressed his thanks to the Foreign Minister of Maldives for the warm welcome and the generous hospitality extended to him and members of his delegation during the visit to the Republic of Maldives.

His excellency Mr A.R. Shams-ud Doha Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh extended an invitation to the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Maldives his excellency Mr. Fathulla Jameel to visit Bangladesh at his convenience. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.

BRIEFS

METRIC SYSTEM DEADLINES--The metric system in all ration shops of all the five statutory rationing areas will be operational from the rationing week beginning from June 27 1983. In case of ration shops other than statutory rationing areas, all storage centres and departments under the Food Directorate the metric system will be effective from July 1 1983, says a PID handout. From July 1 no weight and measures other than the metric system will be legally used in Food Directorate, concerned organisations and shops under their control. This arrangement has been made as part of the government's programme to introduce metric system in all sectors by 1985 which commenced from July 1 1983. It is expected that metric system will also be widely used in various trading centres and commercial organisations with its introduction by the food directorate and rationing systems. All the leaders under food directorate and ration shop owners have been advised to collect the metal unit of weights by June 15 from the Bangladesh Standard Institution. At present there is sufficient stock of weight metal units from 2 Kg to 20 grams at the store of the Bangladesh Standard Institution. [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 25 May 83 p 1]

RELATIONS WITH BURUNDI--Bangladesh and Burundi have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the level of Ambassadors as of May 23, this year, according to a foreign office release in Dhaka on Tuesday night, reports BSS. Bangladesh will maintain diplomatic relations with Burundi through concurrent accreditation of one of its Ambassadors from a nearby resident mission. [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 25 May 83 p 1]

JAPANESE AID GRANT--Japan will provide Bangladesh with a grant assistance of 500 million yen (approximately Taka five crore) in accordance with an Exchange of Notes signed in Dhaka on Wednesday reports BSS. This grant will be utilised by the Relief and Rehabilitation Division of the Ministry of Food for procurement of galvanised iron sheets from Japan for rehabilitation projects in flood and cyclone affected areas. Japan extended a similar assistance of 500 million yen to Bangladesh for procurement of iron sheets from Japan for rehabilitation of primary and secondary schools in Bangladesh in 1979. With this grant assistance Japan's grant assistance to Bangladesh reaches approximately Taka 113 crore during the current fiscal year bringing the total amount of Japan's grant assistance to Bangladesh since 1971 to around Taka 688 crore. In addition, Japan has given Bangladesh an amount of about Taka 2030 crore as commodity and projects loans since 1973. [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 26 May 83 p 1]

ENVOY TO SINGAPORE--The Government has decided to appoint Brigadier Feroze Salahuddin, at present Acting High Commissioner in the Bangladesh High Commission in Singapore, as Bangladesh High Commissioner to Singapore, says a PID handout. Born on January 29, 1929, Brigadier Salahuddin obtained degree of Bachelor of Arts. He was commissioned in the Army on March 7, 1951 and held various assignments including Deputy Quarter Master General and Recruiting Officer for erstwhile East Pakistan from 1951 to 1965. He became Company Commander of the then East Bengal Regiment in October, 1965 and served there till June, 1967. He was promoted to the rank of Lt. Colonel in 1969. After independence, Brigadier Feroze Salahuddin was appointed Director-Welfare and Rehabilitation and was Military Secretary to the President from October, 1972 to August, 1978. On release from the Army, Brigadier Feroze Salahuddin was Chairman of Bangladesh Handloom Board between December, 1978 and April, 1982 and became Chairman of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority in April, 1982. Brigadier Salahuddin was appointed Bangladesh Consul General to Singapore in August 1982. Following upgradation of the mission into High Commission, he became Acting High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Singapore in January, 1983. He is married and has two children. [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 27 May 83 p 3]

ENVOY TO BARBADOS--The Government has decided to appoint Brigadier Feroze Salahuddin, at present Acting High Commissioner in the Bangladesh High Commission in Singapore, as Bangladesh High Commissioner to Singapore, it was learnt officially on Thursday. Born on January 29, 1929, Brigadier Salahuddin obtained Degree of Bachelor of Arts. He was commissioned in the Army on March 7, 1951 and held various assignments including Deputy Quarter Master General and Recruiting Officer for erstwhile East Pakistan from 1951 to 1965. He became Company Commander of the then East Bengal Regiment in October, 1965 and served there till June 1967. He was promoted to the rank of Lt Colonel in 1969. After independence, Brigadier Feroze Salahuddin was appointed Director--Welfare and Rehabilitation and was Military Secretary to the President from October 1972 to August 1978. On release from the Army Brigadier Feroze Salahuddin was Chairman of Bangladesh Handloom Board between December 1978 to April 1982 and became Chairman of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority in April 1982. Brigadier Salahuddin was appointed Bangladesh Consul General to Singapore in August 1982. Following upgradation of the Mission in to High Commission, he became Acting High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Singapore in January 1983. He is married and has two children. [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 27 May 83 p 3]

DHAKA, MALDIVES VISA ACCORD--MALE (Maldiv Islands) May 27--Bangladesh and the Maldives have signed an agreement allowing citizens of both countries to visit the other for up to 90 days without visas says Reuter. The agreement was signed by visiting Bangladesh Foreign Minister A.R.S. Doha, who leaves here tomorrow. The Maldives have similar agreements with India and Sri Lanka. [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 28 May 83 p 1]

DANISH AID AGREEMENT--Denmark will provide Bangladesh with DKR 302 million (Taka 809.36 million approximately) for the next fiscal year (1983-84) to finance the implementation of certain projects, reports BSS. The Danish assistance will be available for projects in rural development, fisheries, food and

agriculture industry, health, rural electrification rural water supply and sanitation and water transport sectors. The agreement to provide the assistance followed annual negotiations on bilateral economic co-operation between the two countries which concluded in Dhaka on Sunday. Dr. Kaj Baago Deputy Head of Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) and Mr. K.M. Rabbani, Additional Secretary External Resources Division led their respective sides to the negotiations. The Danish side also agreed to supply TSP fertilizer, pesticides and spares under commodity assistance. Denmark which gave DKR 252 million, equivalent to Taka 675.36 million for 1982-83, would continue to provide local cost financing of the projects supported by it. During its stay in Bangladesh the Danish delegation met the Finance and Planning Minister and saw some projects in Chittagong and Noakhali. [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 28 May 83 p 1]

AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA--The Government has decided to concurrently accredit Lt. General (RETD) Khwaja Wasi uddin at present Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations in New York as Bangladesh Ambassador to Venezuela according to an official announcement Ambassador to Ethiopia it was in Dhaka Tuesday night says BSS. [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 1 Jun 83 p 8]

AMBASSADOR TO ETHIOPIA--Another report adds: The Government has decided to concurrently accredit Mr Hedayat Ahmed at present Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Arab Republic of Egypt as Bangladesh officially announced in Dhaka Tuesday. [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 1 Jun 83 p 8]

IDB AID ACCORDS--JEDDAH June 1--The Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB) will finance three foreign trade operations in favour of Bangladesh totalling 18 million US dollars under three agreements signed here today; reports IINA. Bangladesh will with the help of the IDB import 188000 metric tons of cement from Indonesia valued at 10 million dollars 134000 metric tons of clinker from Turkey and Djibouti valued at 6 million dollars and 30000 metric tons of phosphate from Jordan in the amount of two million dollars. The agreements fall within the bank's objective to strengthen economic cooperation and trade among Islamic member countries a bank Press release said. Earlier this year the bank had financed import of crude oil by Bangladesh in the amount of 20 million dollars. The total foreign trade financing by IDB in favour of Bangladesh now comes to 38 million dollars Dr. Ahmed Mohamed Ali; the IDB President and Mr. Mohamed Ali Economic Counsellor at the Bangladesh Embassy in Jeddah signed the agreements. [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 2 Jun 83 p 1]

SALT FROM INDIA--NEW DELHI June 1--India will supply Bangladesh 74 thousand metric tonnes of salt under an agreement signed here, reports BSS. The accord was concluded Monday after a Bangladesh team led by Director General of Food A B Siddiky held negotiations with the state-run Trading Corporation for three-days. The shipment will begin in June and expected to be completed by July. [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 2 Jun 83 p 8]

BOYCOTT INDIA CAMPAIGN--'Farakka-O-Shimanta Hamla Prourorodh Committee" Wednesday launched its campaign to boycott Indian goods and called upon the

people to make it a success, reports ENA. Addressing the workers of the Committee at its office Mrs. Amena Begum Convener of the Committee, said the boycott campaign was aimed at registering protest against Farakka. She said the success of the campaign would pave the way for solution of Farakka problem at international forum and ensuring due share of the Ganges water for Bangladesh. She demanded the annulment of corridor agreement and revocation of 25-year-agreement including road transit agreement with India. Mrs. Amena Begum called upon the political parties irrespective of their affiliations, to come forward and launch movement for solution of problems with India. [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 2 Jun 83 p 1]

CSO: 4600/1283

REPORT ON MEETING OF INDO-EEC COMMISSION

Madras THE HINDU in English 2 Jun 83 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, June 1.

The Indo-EEC joint commission has agreed to intensify the programme of industrial cooperation, especially aimed at stimulating European investment in India and fostering transfer of technology.

Both sides agreed on the need to formulate a concrete follow-up programme to the three seminars held in Europe and the industrial conference held in India earlier this year.

A joint press release on the two-day second session of the commission held in Brussels on May 30 and 31 was released by the office of the EEC delegation here.

Special note was taken of the request by the Indian side for access to the resources of the European Investment Bank in relation to the need to invest considerable funds on energy projects in India in the near future.

Correcting trade deficit: Both sides noted the large trade deficit which had continued for the second year in succession. The commission agreed that the working group on trade set up under the first joint commission should continue to review trade questions in order to assist India reduce its trade deficit and noted that some progress of late had been made in this area. The programme of trade promotion in favour of India was also reviewed and a new programme for 1983 was adopted.

The Indian delegation was led by Mr. V. P. Singh, Union Commerce Minister, and the EEC delegation by Mr. Wilhelm Haferkamp, Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities.

The joint commission held a detailed review of the economic situation in the Community and India, particularly its bearing on the coming UNCTAD. Both sides concurred that a constructive approach to this meeting was required in view of the interdependence of the developed and developing nations.

Trilateral cooperation: The commission seriously examined the possibilities of trilateral cooperation involving the utilisation of training institutions and consultancy services available in India for the developmental programmes of other countries in the Third World, with EEC assistance. In this context, an EEC delegation is likely to visit India shortly.

The joint commission agreed on priorities for cooperation in the field of science and technology with special emphasis on energy, tropical medicine, agriculture and environmental questions.

It reviewed the ongoing EEC programmes in India for food and financial and technical assistance. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the execution of these programmes and expressed the hope of increasing the levels of assistance.

Greater understanding: The Joint Commission meeting was held in an atmosphere of cordiality and contributed to greater understanding of each other's point of view, according to the press release.

The working sessions were chaired by Mr. Jos Loeff, Deputy Director-General for External Relations, Commission of the European Communities. —PTI.

CSO: 4600/1293

MORE FOREIGN AID TO BE SOUGHT FOR VIZAG PLANT

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 2 Jun 83 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, June 1.—The Centre has decided to seek financial assistance from other countries, besides Russia, for completing the steel project at Visakhapatnam.

This was stated here yesterday by the Union Minister of State for Steel and Mines, Mr N. K. P. Salve, who said that the Soviet assistance of Rs 390 crores would cover hardly 10% of the total estimated cost of the Visakhapatnam steel project.

Mr Salve told reporters of the Government's commitment to complete the Rs 3,900-crore Vizag steel project. Progress of work was satisfactory, and more than 44% of equipment and machinery had already been ordered.

Until March 31, the total expenditure on the steel project amounted to Rs 511 crores. The Steel Ministry had urged the Planning Commission to release more funds—

the amount of Rs 187 crores sanctioned by it was "very meagre", he said.

The State owned Steel Authority of India, in charge of running the public sector steel plants, had contracted export orders of 35,000 tons of hot and cold rolled sheets destined for four European ports.

Mr Salve said that India was among the few countries which continued to work out steel development plans, in spite of recession in the world steel industry.

The Centre was committed to setting up a steel plant in Orissa. A team consisting of experts from SAIL and MECON, a State-owned engineering consultancy firm, had visited Britain to assess the suitability of equipment which might be obtained from that country. The Government also awaited a detailed project report on the proposed steel project in Orissa.

CSO: 4600/1292

OUTCOME OF WILLIAMSBURG DEEMED UNSATISFACTORY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 Jun 83 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text]

The seven-nation joint declaration at the end of the Williamsburg summit is a statement of good intentions, nothing more. No specific or concrete proposals or policies have been put forward. If this is one weakness, there are many others. No serious analysis of the world economic situation, worth the name has emerged from the summit or even looked like emerging at any point of time. Given this lacuna, it is not surprising that even as a statement of intentions no priorities have been spelled out. Should reducing unemployment be the principal pre-occupation or not? Should priority be given to reforming the rickety international monetary system with its system of floating exchange rates or preventing governments from adopting beggar-my-neighbour protectionist policies? Previous economic summits have had a more urgent focus making, for example, the struggle against inflation the principal common task. This time there is only a rag-bag of worn out platitudes about advancing free trade, reducing excessive state expenditures, lowering interest rates, providing more jobs etc. It is true that the final communique or declaration on such occasions is necessarily a consensual affair and must, therefore, represent the lowest common denominator of views. But even so, the effort of this year's economic summit has been feeble than usual. This is substantially due to the sharp differences between France and the U.S. with the former assigning a "locomotive" role to the U.S. economy in world output and trade. And therefore demanding that Mr. Reagan assume his responsibilities in this respect. That is to say, the U.S. must bring down sharply its interest rates which are causing flight of capital from Europe and reduce its budget deficit by raising taxes. At the same time President Mitterrand let it be known that he was in favour of a "new Bretton Woods", which is something of an irony. The old Bretton Woods system of fixed exchange rates and promotion of international liquidity was based upon the universal acceptance of the strong dollar and on the willingness of the USA to run virtually permanent deficits on its capital account. These differences, as indeed others, (U.S.-European differences over East-West trade) have been barely papered over behind the blandest possible facade of formal unity.

But third world countries have been denied even this bare

comfort. Responsibility for genuine dialogue between north and south over trade matters has been fobbed off to the forthcoming UNCTAD meeting, and even here the richer nations want to limit discussion to shipping and transport. The U.S. in particular has been careful to get the seven-nation at Williamsburg to avoid making any commitment to increasing the availability of soft loans. They will provide "agreed funding levels" to the soft loan affiliate (IDA) of the IMF — a more meaningless phrase it would be difficult to find. Similarly, the advocates of a new economic order will be sorely disappointed that there was not even a formal acknowledgement of this need. All in all, serious reservations must be raised about the usefulness of such summits in the future and the extent to which they justify the enormous expense entailed in holding them or the enormous media exposure that they receive.

CSO: 4600/1291

INDIA

BRIEFS

PAPAL VISIT PLANNED--COCHIN, June 1--Pope John Paul II will visit India next year, according to sources in the Kerala Catholic Bishops' Conference here. The Pope had accepted an invitation by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India to visit the country, extended by its president, Dr. Simon Bimonta, Archbishop of Bombay, they said. The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, had also invited him to visit India during her last visit to the Vatican. A formal announcement would be made after diplomatic formalities were completed, the sources added. As he was making a pastoral visit to India, the Pope was likely to visit Kerala, which has a sizable Catholic population. This would be the first time a Pope was making a pastoral visit to India, they said. Pope Paul VI visited Bombay in 1964 to inaugurate the International Eucharistic Congress. [Madras THE HINDU in English 2 Jun 83 p 1]

CSO: 4600/1294

SOVIET UNION'S PREDICAMENT IN AFGHANISTAN RE-EXAMINED

Karachi JANG in Urdu 17 Jun 83 p 3

[Editorial: "Afghanistan and Russia"]

[Excerpt] There is no doubt that the military intervention in Afghanistan has proved to be very costly to the Soviet Union, which according to conservative estimates has to bear the daily military expenses of \$6 million [sic]. In addition, continuous military intervention in Afghanistan has so far cost Moscow the lives of 20,000 soldiers and the destruction of 200 planes and more than 500 tanks [sic]. Even a great power like the Soviet Union cannot bear such huge losses indefinitely. Against this background, if we examine Mr Andropov's recent speech, in which he said that "the basic aim of Soviet foreign policy is to maintain international peace, and it is not content with restricting its efforts to prevent the escalation of war but also does all it can to bring about a radical improvement in international relations and reduce tension," then we find that the Soviet Union's current policy toward Afghanistan defeats its own aims and objects.

Even though Mrs Indira Gandhi may not consider Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan as a military invasion, the United Nations, nonaligned nations and the Islamic Conference Organization and her own government do not consider the presence of Soviet forces justified. If Mr Andropov is really engaged in efforts to bring about a revolutionary improvement in international relations, then such efforts should start with the withdrawal of the Soviet forces in Afghanistan. Mr Andropov should not give much importance to Mrs Gandhi's mysteriously veiled support, because she is busy trying to improve her relations with the United States. In this way, she would like to benefit from both superpowers at the same time. This is a special characteristic of her nature and temperament. The Soviet Union's allies, too, do not warmly support Russia's current policies. Pakistan, whose stand on Afghanistan is fully harmonious with the overwhelming majority of the nations of the world, will not allow herself to be influenced by any power in the world. Pakistan will never look upon the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan as lawful, because the occupation of any country by force and the imposition of a puppet regime against the wishes of its people is a clear violation of the UN Charter, and at the same time to disregard such actions or to encourage them would also encourage a dangerous trend that, instead of making the world a haven of peace, could turn it into an arena of expansionist tendencies and oppression and suppression. No country in the world, whether big or small, can ever knowingly and willingly encourage such dangerous trends.

KASHMIR VOTE ANALYZED, SEEN AS REAFFIRMING TWO-NATION THEORY

Karachi JANG in Urdu 16 Jun 83 p 3

[Article by Z. A. Suleri: "Kashmir Valley's Decision"]

[Excerpt] To say that India is a secular state established on secular grounds is outright delusion and deception. It deceives not only the eyes but at the same time constitutes a misrepresentation of the facts. The Indian Government, irrespective of the fact that it is a Congress or a Jan Sanghi government, is committed to safeguarding Hindu society, Hindu ideals and Hindu interests, and it is completely incapable of tolerating Muslims. In view of this, Indian Muslims are faced with two difficult problems. The government is not even prepared to be impartial toward the Muslims, let alone fair. They become victims of every sudden calamity. Muslims are destined to be killed in riots that occur off and on because the confrontation is not on an equal basis. Wherever the Hindus are in a majority there the police force, too, consists entirely of Hindus. The helpless Indian Muslim is simultaneously faced with feelings of enormous force to reckon with. Although after the Sir Sayed movement the English system of education became common among the Muslims and they were in a position to meet requirements for employment, over the past 35 years they have been lagging behind others in the educational field. On the other hand, they cannot escape from their sad predicament by entering the folds of Hinduism because the fate that awaits them after conversion is even worse than that of the untouchable castes. Under these circumstances, the only alternative left for the Muslims is to preserve their identity. The slogan of one nationhood was nothing but a deception intended to keep the Muslim in a state of captivity.

Now, in light of these facts, let us review the results of the Kashmir elections. The state clearly has been divided into two parts, Hindu and Muslim. In the (Kashmir) valley, where the Muslims are in the majority, they voted for the National Conference. In Jammu, where Hindus are in the majority, they voted for the Congress [Indira] Party. In Jammu, the only difference has been that Hindus who previously supported the Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party as a proof of their Hindu mentality this time realized that their safety rested in siding with the ruling party in the center. Despite Mrs Gandhi's victory, however, the reality of the two-nation theory came into the open. The issue at the polls was certainly not whether the people wanted Kashmir to remain with India or whether

they would prefer to align their state with Pakistan. Yet, the nature of the relationship between the state and New Delhi constituted the main controversial issue facing the people at the polls. In Kashmir, where the prevailing state of affairs was such that elections were held under the protection of bayonets (this time in addition to Indian soldiers a reinforcement of 10,000 union police force was also present), Mrs Gandhi carried out her election campaign with the feeling that the party vieing against her was a very weak party. Farouq Abdullah was not Sheikh Abdullah and she believed that her international stature would prevail in Kashmir. To awaken controversial feelings, she campaigned for votes as the daughter of Kashmir, but the ensuing results was no different. Congress Indira certainly defeated all its opposing rival Hindu parties, but in the valley she could not make any headway. For Muslims, the issue was not Sheikh Abdullah or Abdullah junior. For them, the problem was the establishment of identity, and they were prepared to rally behind any leader who would pledge to commit himself to safeguard their national character and stand. Well, the national identity of the Muslims of Kashmir has thus been clarified, but their difficulties do not end at that. When have the Hindus ever considered Muslims to be part of themselves? They have always looked upon Muslims as 'mlechha', i.e., a very unclean race. All they want is to rule over the Muslims. Muslims of Kashmir valley, by voting for National Conference as against Congress (I), did not acquire the right to self-determination. They continue to be powerless vassels. Moreover, with Mrs Gandhi's success over the Bharatiy Janaa, Dr Farouq Abdullah will have to face a still stiffer challenge. He will have to deal and cooperate with the Indian prime minister on the question of representation for Jammu in the government and this is bound to prove costly, because now he will no longer have the same maneuverability that he had with the help and assistance of other parties against the central government.

Only one lesson can be learned from the helplessness of the Muslims of Kashmir--that when on an historical occasion a nation takes a false step, it has to pay a big price for that folly in addition to enduring pain and suffering for a long time. Had the late Sheikh Abdullah acquiesced to the call of Quaid-e Azam, his nation would not have gotten itself into this misfortune. Helplessness of the Muslims in Central India can be understood because they are surrounded on all sides, but the captivity of the Muslims of Kashmir is incredible. Such a sad predicament can come only as a result of one's own doing. Manifestation of the two-nation theory in the valley will have very little effect on Mrs Gandhi, who wishes to bring all of the Asian nations under her sphere of influence.

9315

CSO: 4656/198

PAKISTAN

BUSINESS LEADER DISCUSSES COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

Rawalpindi HURMAT in Urdu 30 Jun 83 pp 37-40

[Interview with Abdul Hafiz Kardar, managing director of an energy consulting firm, by Lahore correspondent Shahida Tabassum; date not specified]

[Text] Mr Abdul Hafiz Kardar is the managing director of a firm in Lahore that performs consulting services in the field of energy. Kardar also belongs to Group 83, established in December 1982. The group holds a monthly seminar on national problems. HURMAT's representative in Lahore, Shahida Tabassum, met with him and asked his views on industrial, commercial and financial affairs.

[Question] Mr Kardar, the funds we obtain from world organizations and foreign countries to finance our development programs are sometimes referred to as loans and sometimes as aid. What is the difference?

[Answer] When governments decide that they do not want to live within their means, they look around to see who will help them.

Pakistan's basic problems and difficulties began as a result of its strained relations with India and the Kashmir conflict. That is why we began to look around for someone who would help us. We realized that India is a powerful enemy with a larger population and greater resources. We, on the other hand, were divided into two parts. How could we defend ourselves and what strategy could we adopt? Based on these considerations, we looked for a strategy of defense. The countries to whom we applied were well aware that India's relations were mostly with socialist and nonaligned countries. India would speak to Tito but not to Pakistan. In view of this situation, the United States wished to widen its influence in our area. It has unlimited resources and is a wealthy country. The United States had huge quantities of arms left over from World War II and wanted to find a use for them. Obviously, it would not just throw away those weapons. To gain influence in this area and make friends, the United States signed an agreement. We signed the agreement to protect ourselves from the neighboring enemy. They signed the agreement because they realized that a great power [presumably the Soviet Union] was interested in this area and hoped to gain access to warm waters. Because

of this, to make such access impossible, the Baghdad pact was signed and CENTO was created. We joined both and the United States looked around to see in which country it could gain a foothold. Agreements were then signed and aid began to arrive. We were treated badly in the partition agreement in regard to resources and arms; India was partitioned in such a way that water sources were given to India. The scarcity of water affects cultivation and an area that used to produce sufficient food to feed the whole country lost the ability even to feed its own inhabitants. Faced with this situation, we signed an agreement with the United States. Under the PL 480 program, the United States provides us with wheat and other foodstuffs and the payment for these articles is deposited in the U.S. treasury account in the State Bank. The program stipulates that this money be spent for projects and objectives agreed upon by both countries. The greater part of this money is spent for purposes connected with U.S. interests. The country that has given us the largest amount of aid in the true sense of the world is China. It gave us millions of dollars of aid and did so until 1976, or 1975. China did not ask for repayment of any of the aid money and gave us free weapons, machinery and vehicles. This is true aid. The loans that we are obtaining today can affect the way of life of every individual in this country. The givers have the leverage [over us]. It is regrettable that in this society where a debtor used to hide his face in shame, the country's leaders now hold up their heads with pride and announce with victorious smiles, "We had asked for a smaller amount but we got more than we asked for." Instead of feeling ashamed, they celebrate loudly and joyously. Such behavior is not seemly in a debtor. We have to pay back \$9 billion, \$6 billion of which was obtained in the last 6 years. We borrowed \$3 billion in the 30 years before and the reasons for that are obvious. Governments do not reduce their expenses and thus are forced to knock on doors hat in hand. A country that behaves in this way cannot maintain its dignity and honor and loses its ability to negotiate and its strength as well.

[Question] Developing countries with limited resources have to obtain loans from developed countries and world organizations. The countries whose industrial goods dominate world markets today also had to borrow money in the past; Japan and Germany, for example, head the list of such countries. The secret seems to lie in how the loans are utilized. In addition to such utilization, what can a developing country do to accelerate its economic progress?

[Answer] That is true. Today's strong countries could not have progressed without loans. Korea used to be in a situation similar to Pakistan's today; but it made forward strides. Similarly, Japan and Germany emerged from World War II with shattered economies. They used loans to meet basic needs and concentrated on developing those industries that would enable them to earn foreign exchange to pay off their loans and become self-sufficient. But the policy of encouraging exports has proved a failure. World conditions are such that countries want to protect their industries by imposing restrictions on imports and exports. It is also useless to shift attention from imports to exports; that is why experts inside and outside the country are now advising that one should keep one's development plans within one's own means; that is to say, rely on one's own resources. What they are saying is that the sugar coating will no longer be available; the bitter pill will have to be swallowed

without it. Who can say this to the people? Obviously, a man whom the people trust, a man who would relinquish his Mercedes to drive a Suzuki and adopt a simple way of life. Taxes are an indirect way of raising revenue in a country. Ours is an agricultural country but one sees no taxes [on agricultural produce] levied anywhere. The reason for this is that the government is composed of feudal elements that are always crying out that if you do this, it will mean an end to everything. Sixty percent of our gross national product is composed of agriculture but it is not taxed. The other 40 percent is taxed indirectly because the consumers pay the tax. Conditions will get worse in the future. I refer to the 40 percent because vegetables are now being exported to the Middle East. Prices will rise because vegetables spoil easily and cannot be stored. The condition of the middle class will gradually deteriorate further. When our budget is announced, there are only two paras dealing with matters that concern inflation and unemployment. Governments rise and fall because of these two problems. When purchasing power is lost, one hears cries of protest on all sides. Unemployment gives rise to demonstrations. These two important problems are mentioned only cursorily in the budget. The solution to these two problems is connected with the shortage of government funds. Forty-five percent of our [non-adult?] population is [about] 15 years of age, which means that either the parents have to be financially able to educate the youth or the youth have to find jobs in 2 or 3 years. The question is, will this happen? Are both choices possible? Will the country be able to provide employment for those young people who obtain an education with that objective in view, and will those who were deprived of an education because of lack of means be able to earn a living also? Our plans do not answer these questions; the possibility that they will seems remote.

[Question] Politicians claim that they are well acquainted with the problems of the people and can solve them. What is your opinion concerning the way politicians think and act about economic problems?

[Answer] My complaint about politicians is that they demand the restoration of the 1973 constitution but pay no attention to economic problems and ignore basic issues. I say, very well, talk about the constitution; but the real issues are the people's standard of living and their basic needs. Why do the politicians not raise these issues? What kind of politicians are they who demand only that the 1973 constitution be restored? When it is restored, what will they do? Power should be used to improve the lot of the people. These people talk of power but they do not mention its use. They are incompetent and inept; they neither think nor understand and have no solutions to problems. They cannot discuss fundamental economic problems but are adept at rhetoric. For God's sake, politicians! talk of basic issues and study them so that when you form a government you will not prove yourselves inept.

9863

CSO: 4656/212

REVOCATION OF PRESS, PUBLICATIONS ORDINANCE DISCUSSED

Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 14 Jun 83 p 5

[Article by Prof Varis Mir, head of the Journalism Department of Punjab University: "Demand for the Repeal of the Press and Publications Ordinance"]

[Excerpts] Pakistan is one of those Third World countries where the governments have utilized various devices to suppress the press. In the absence of a permanent national political system, "Bonapartism" has usually had a free hand here; civil and military governments have indiscriminately continued to tighten press laws. One of the great "accomplishments" of the Ayub government concerning the press was the imposition of the press and publications ordinance and the establishment of the National Press Trust. This measure was inherited and continued by each succeeding government that promised, in turn, to end the press ordinance. But as time passed, the ruling authority found itself growing more and more enamored of the ordinance. The press has always protested against this special relationship between the ordinance and the government, and the protest continues today. This traditional protest was repeated at the press convention of the Council of the Pakistani Newspaper Editors; but one gets the impression that the journalists themselves have ceased to believe that their demand will be accepted. The fact is that the standard-bearers of the demand for abolition of the press ordinance have had to run so hard and clamber over so many rocks that they have become tired and dispirited; and faced with the pressures of the rapid undemocratic changes taking place daily, they are subconsciously prepared to surrender. To put it another way, the ironies of succeeding civil and martial laws have so confused the press fraternity, or, as some people claim, have brought such a degree of maturity to them, that they have learned to ignore the paradoxes of their situation. The martial law has also become so "perfect" with practice that, while understanding everything, it gives the impression of understanding nothing and lately has resorted to mockery. Journalists' demands include the revocation of the press ordinance, repeal of the amendment to Article 449 of the Pakistani penal code and even an end to the press advice provision; but what is absent is the most important demand of all, namely, abolition of the Press Trust. I would like to say respectfully to the honorable press editors of Pakistan that the omission of this demand cripples all the other demands for

the freedom of the press. First of all, under the present conditions, merely ending the press ordinance will not change the situation of the newspapers. The highest law of all, martial law, will remain with all its powers. Martial law has been running the newspapers up to now and references to the press ordinance have been limited to newspaper editorials and negotiation agreements. The only hidden element in this demand that shows foresight is that if the ordinance is revoked, a democratic government following the end of martial law would find it somewhat difficult to restore the ordinance. Our veteran journalists, however, may be indulging in pleasant dreams about the future. Just think! If the Press Trust is kept intact and the press ordinance repealed, what will be the effect on the nature of the Pakistani press? What kind of problems will be created by the existence of two separate press estates in one country? And if a free democracy should be established in the future, for how long will this paradox be tolerated? The press and publications ordinance constituted two aspects of the political needs of the military government of Ayub Khan. A number of newspapers were brought under control through the Press Trust and an attempt was made to use the cudgel of the press ordinance against the others. We all know that Yahya broke the one-unit system and the parity principle but did not repeal the Press Trust. Bhutto made the repeal of the Press Trust and the press and publications ordinance part of his campaign slogans; the country broke up but the Press Trust ordinance remained intact. It was even said in the convention that the constitution ended in Pakistan but the press ordinance remained. Why can the ordinance not be revoked? Because the press ordinance was intended for the free press; on basic issues, Press Trust newspapers had no practical connection in the past with the ordinance, nor is there any connection now. For all practical purposes, these newspapers are run by the Pakistani Ministry of Information, although the government has maintained the contrary on the basis of legal hair-splitting. It was as a result of President Zia's "frankness" that the government of Pakistan miraculously confessed that nine Trust newspapers, one news agency, (2 weeklies and, in part, another news agency as well), are "owned" by it. Television and radio are also under government control. Journalists working for the president's "personal newspapers" are dissatisfied with the standards of their newspapers and even with the policy determined for them by the government. Obviously, a newspaper organized by the government as its "party organ" will not be sprightly and the journalists writing for it will not have the opportunity to demonstrate their ability. After the repeal of the ordinance, Trust newspapers will further lose journalistic flavor. If the government should continue to retain control, how would these newspapers be able to compete with free newspapers? Even after the ordinance is repealed, free newspapers will not be free in the real sense of the word. Still, the enterprising antics of the free press will bring about a further reduction in the circulation of the Trust newspapers; their employees will lose morale and the government will be forced, not only through its advertisements but also by covert and overt means, to further strengthen the financial position of their "personal" newspapers. The free newspapers will thus be deprived of their just dues and finally the confrontation between the controlled and noncontrolled press will become intense, further reducing the power and influence of the press in Pakistani politics

and society and providing the government with further cause for satisfaction. It has always been the policy of our governments to prevent unity in Pakistan outside the government and to shut up in separate coops those who raise their voices in favor of freedom of action and thought and to give them food and drink in their coops. If they raise too great an outcry, then the government opens the doors of the coops for a short time and lets them fight each other tooth and nail until, bloodied and dispirited, they voluntarily creep back into their coops. God be praised that the Press Council has now been formed with the cooperation of CPNE [Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors] and APNS [All Pakistan Newspaper Society] and the difficult task of the voluntary enforcement of the ethics code has been accepted by former senior judge Zakiuddin Pal. The basic responsibility, however, of making a success of this experiment rests first and last on the press and journalists. President Zia has even said that if the experiment succeeds, he would garland the press editors. The secret of the Press Council's success is contained in a single point, namely, that every newspaper accept the decision of the Press Council; and, in the face of pressure by the government or special interests groups, not prove itself to be a Trojan horse. The experiment of the Press Council has been tried in basically democratic countries. In these countries, some newspapers refuse to accept the decision of the Press Council; but in Western democratic countries, a newspaper refusing to abide by the decision of the Press Council would not be acting on the secret instructions of the government nor does its defiance nullify the power of the Press Council. Furthermore, in a democratic society, the government cannot conspire in this manner against the journalists, whereas in Third World countries it would not be difficult to find black sheep among the press who, for a minor personal profit, would be prepared to resort to the dirtiest tricks to sabotage the Press Council and render it ineffective. It should be remembered that once the Press Council is sabotaged, the demands of journalists would also be sabotaged forever. Then under a new name, press laws even more repressive than the press ordinance would be passed and journalists would be left with no moral justification for demanding their repeal. It is necessary, therefore, to think and plan ahead to avoid such dangers.

It should be noted that in addition to the press leadership, rank and file journalists should also study the press and publications ordinance to see on what occasions and how many times the government has directly used the articles of the ordinance.

9863

CSO: 4656/208

MRD'S PROPOSED CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT SUPPORTED

Karachi MAN in Urdu 6 Jun 83 p 2

[Text] It is our great misfortune that every time the issue of democracy and the general elections comes up we end up with martial law. Thus, the democratic institutions get no chance to evolve and strengthen. Such a situation leads to a heyday for the fortune hunters.

Every new ruler who comes to power brings with him a panacea with which he professes to cure all. The masses, who are usually kept illiterate, fall easy prey, only to discover later that it was nothing but a mirage of false promises. Then the masses rise and rebel against the injustices.

Such a reaction is natural and is bound to happen sooner or later. When it does, it becomes more pronounced in our country because the healthy tradition of accountability that would be quite common in a democracy is absent in the present conditions of martial law in our country. The afflicted poor masses cannot ask anyone why the promises never bear fruit--the promises about the simple necessities like drinking water, employment, medical attention, education for the poor, impartial justice, etc. that are not kept.

Many questions arise. For instance, why are consumer goods getting beyond the reach of people with a fixed income? Why there is censorship of the newspapers? Why is the right of self-expression curtailed? How long will the prohibition on political parties last and why the internment of political leaders? Are the politicians, teachers and journalists who are law-abiding citizens worse than the criminals who go scot-free? Why is it considered to be in the spirit of Islam to intern people for an unlimited time without habeas corpus? Why has martial law, which was considered necessary at one time, lasted now for 6 years? Why have the promises to lift martial law and transfer power peacefully through elections to representatives of the people not been fulfilled? It is for these reasons that the restlessness and frustration is increasing and permeating every segment of society.

For these reasons, and to divert the attention of officials from the legitimate rights of the people, a united front of eight political parties, called MRD, has decided officially to start a movement beginning 14 August. Although such movements are often labeled as such, this is not an act of enmity toward Pakistan. But it is an act reflecting the exigency of the times. It is simply a

reaction to political persecution. What the martial law government needs to do is to pay attention to it for the sake of the solidarity of the people and the survival of the nation. The government needs to take some concrete steps before it is too late.

The promised overhaul of the system has lost its meaning. Now the matter is simple and clear-cut. The date of the general elections needs to be announced. The 1973 constitution is still technically in force. It is not only a safeguard for the people but also a guarantor of the survival of the nation. It is wise to fulfill the aspirations of the people before they are forced to rise. Any government that does so, however unpopular, ends up insuring its place in history.

9859

CSO: 4656/205

ARMY ADVISED TO MAINTAIN ITS HONOR BY ENDING MARTIAL LAW

Karachi AMN in Urdu 5 Jun 83 p 2

[Excerpt] All of the parties included in the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) and the parties outside it in one voice are demanding an end to martial law because it is not worthy of the free citizens of a country. But the military government is not willing to give any timetable for ending it. No party with any influence on public opinion is in favor of prolonging it. But it appears from the thinking of the military government that it is insensitive to the aspirations of the people. It is interested only in staying in power. But it would be far better for the armed forces to create love and respect for themselves in the hearts of the masses rather than trying to stay in power. Because a single day in power that changes love into hatred is a cursed one.

For the past several years, the leaders of the three major defunct parties--the People's Party, Tahrik-e Istiqlal, and PDP [Pakistan Democratic Party] are in prison without due process of law. Many political workers are also behind bars. The journalist Irshad Rao is also in jail. Leaders of the political parties are not allowed to go from one province to another. Law and order is breaking down and crime and inflation are on the increase. The government and the police are persecuting the people. Lawyers are being forced to go on hunger strikes. The teachers are worried and the students are restless. And all this is taking place under martial law. Will all this give the armed forces a good name?

Because there is no reckoning, irregularities have become rampant. Politicians, scholars and journalists are not being given due respect although they are the ones who lead and form public opinion. Government pays no heed to them and does not listen to them. If this happened in a democracy, the masses would deal with the government sternly and the opposition would teach it a lesson. But it is very hard for us to rise against our own armed forces. Therefore, the armed forces, which we know are very patriotic, should give heed to what is happening.

General Zia says that he is trying to introduce the Islamic system. But he does not realize that the civil administration sees its death in the Islamic system. The present administration can get help from the Islamic system only when the judiciary and the press have some influence. In a democracy, any government can be made to enforce the Islamic system but that is not the case under martial law.

9859

CSO: 4656/205

LARGE-SCALE BRIBERY, CORRUPTION CHARGED; LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY SCORED

Karachi AMN in Urdu 30 May 83 p 2

[Excerpt] In an earlier era, if somebody was accused of bribery of even 100,000 rupees a proper investigation was initiated, but today, even if somebody is accused of a 10-million-rupee-bribery, nothing happens. General Zia says that the amounts received as graft have become larger than ever and General Jilani, the Governor of Punjab, says that many police officers have become the owners of buses, but neither does anything about it.

A councilman from Punjab made a sensational disclosure that a police officer, rather than being punished and imprisoned for taking a bribe of 300,000 rupees, was transferred to the anticorruption unit.

I am sure that the martial law government is aware of these irregularities. But it chooses to play helpless for the simple reason that one arm of the government does not want to hold another accountable. If somehow the masses become aware of such corrupt practices they can do nothing but to bear it quietly. If the protectors of law and order turn into businessmen owning and running the buses, and their crimes go unpunished, then what will become of the society? Who will control crime?

In the 6 years of military rule, the evils of the society have been on the increase. Inflation, unemployment and crime are increasing and there are acute shortages of water, gas and electricity and the situation is getting worse. All this is happening because there is no one to hold anybody accountable. Once in a while a little fry is caught for the sake of publicity. Usually the big shots go scot-free. The laws are such that you can do almost nothing against the high officials except to complain. When such complaints are made to their supervisors, they hold the proceedings in private behind closed doors. Often their decisions are not disclosed to the newspapers; often they are simply filed away.

Until some measures are taken to stop the illegal activities, persecution and injustice will go on. It will be impossible to implement societal reforms and the development work will be of no avail.

What we really need to do is develop institutions. Once the national institutions are solidly grounded, then the matter of building the nation can be

taken in hand. Its speed can also be accelerated. In the 36 years of our national existence we have worshipped our national leaders and have simply ignored our institutions. The result is that every time we did not have a leader, and that happened quite often, we felt the lack of someone who could create national solidarity. This feeling kept increasing for the simple reason that we focused all of our energies on the personalities rather than the institutions. True, there were some charismatic personalities, but man is mortal and so is power. But if the national institutions are strong, then even the lesser leaders can govern effectively with out making any serious mistakes and the concept of collective leadership can evolve.

9859

CSO: 4656/203

BRIEFS

LABOR LEADERS' STATEMENT--The leader of the Pakistan Trade Union Federation, Salim Raza, and the general secretary of SSO [as published], Nasir Mansur, have condemned the long-time illegal internment of labor leader Shoukat Hayat, Pakistan Socialist Party leader Mohammad Saeed and Chowdhary Mohammad Shafiq. They added that many sensible labor, farm and student leaders have been imprisoned simply because they were speaking the truth. The government is using the name of religion to protect the interests of the upper classes. But it is treating the masses the way the slaves were once treated. The statement by these figures indicates that the leaders have been in prison for the last 3 years without any writ of habeas corpus. The labor leader Shoukat Hayat was put in the infamous imperial fort. The statement demands that the government immediately release these leaders. They should be tried in the courts, the statement added. The statement ends with a demand for the release of all labor, farm and student leaders and workers. It also demands an investigation of police brutality in Hyderabad and Nawabshah and asks for the sternest punishment of the culprits for shedding the blood of the innocent. [Text] [Karachi AMN in Urdu 5 Jun 83 p 5] 9859

BHOPALI MURDER CASE CRITICISM--Syed Munawar Hasan, deputy leader of the defunct Jamaat-e-Islami in Karachi, expressed surprise at the statement of the minister of the interior that the murderers of Zahoorul Hasan Bhopali have left the country. He demanded that the protectors of the criminals be flushed out, or the public will be forced to issue a White Paper that will bring out into the open the names of all of the criminals. The Jamaat-e-Islami leader added that if the statement of the honorable minister were to be taken as a basis for his performance appraisal, then it would call for his dismissal. He wanted to know what the minister and his ministry was doing when the murderers were still within the country. Who was protecting them? And if they succeeded in leaving the country, who aided them? The leader wanted to know if the minister had verified the escape of the criminal and if so, if he (or they) could not be apprehended with the help of Interpol. It is very strange, the leader added, that if a voice is raised against even a martial law minor official the minister loses no time to quell it, but if a poor citizen loses even his life, they are helpless. Munawar Hassan concluded by noting that martial law has lost its usefulness. After the first 90 days, it has become the protector of the enemies of the nation and Islam. We need to get rid of it as quickly as possible. [Text] [Karachi AMN in Urdu 4 Jun 83 p 6] 9859